

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO TRACEY A. LYNCH

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Tracey A. Lynch, of Bronx, NY. Ms. Lynch is being honored for her leadership and service to the community by the Committee for Effective Leadership and the New York State Democratic Committee. Born and raised in the Throgs Neck/Silver Beach community, Ms. Lynch has been an active member of the community for over twenty-five years. She is a graduate of St. Helena's Business School, The Wood Secretarial School, and attended Pace University as an undergraduate. She has been married to Thomas Lynch for 20 years and is the proud mother of three.

Ms. Lynch has been the President of the Silver Beach Association (SBA) for the past 12 years and has coordinated a number of activities within the community to bring families together. Some of those events have included Irish step dancing classes, sign language classes, chess clubs, book clubs, and arts and crafts. Other organizations with which Ms. Lynch is involved are Throgs Neck Community Action Partnership, the Throgs Neck Homeowners Association, the Schuyler Hill Civic Association, and the 45th NYPD Precinct.

Ms. Lynch has been working for the Department of Education since 2003 and is a Parent Coordinator for P.S. 14, the Senator John D. Calandra High School. In this role she serves as a liaison between the Department of Education and parents and guardians and assists parents with education, social, medical and community needs. Ms. Lynch also organizes and facilitates workshops and meetings in conjunction with the principal, teachers, staff and community-based organizations.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Ms. Lynch best wishes and good fortune in her future projects.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 177, passage of H.R. 1130—Judicial Disclosure Responsibility Act, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CELEBRATING MASTERFOODS USA
GREENVILLE FACILITY EXPAN-
SION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to commemorate the \$15 million expansion of the Masterfoods USA Mississippi Delta facility located in Greenville, Mississippi.

For nearly 30 years, the Greenville facility has produced America's favorite branded rice, Uncle Ben's®, in its many variations. This facility currently produces more than 100,000 tons of rice per year. As part of the expansion, Masterfoods USA will install state-of-the-art processing equipment which will improve capacity to produce the line of Uncle Ben's® 90-second microwavable Ready Rice®.

The facility is a significant contributor to the state and local economy, employing approximately 200 associates and contributing millions of dollars in salaries and taxes. Moreover, each year, Masterfoods USA purchases and processes more than 156,000 tons, or \$18 million, of Delta-grown rough rice through this facility.

Of equal importance is the commitment of Masterfoods USA and the Greenville facility to local community and charitable endeavors. For many years the company has been actively involved with the Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce and many local charities including, the United Way, the American Heart Walk, the March of Dimes, the Salvation Army, the Boys and Girls Club, and America's Second Harvest. Through its long-standing partnership with the Mississippi Area Food Network, Masterfoods USA donates a large number of Uncle Ben's® products to regional food banks. For example, following Hurricane Katrina, Uncle Ben's® donated 150 tons of food to support relief efforts in the Gulf Region.

Through its partnership with America's Second Harvest, the company recently agreed to co-sponsor the construction of a Kids Café at the local Boys and Girls Club. Kids Café, the most expansive child feeding program in the United States, provides free meals and snacks to low-income children through a variety of existing community locations. In addition to providing hot meals to hungry kids, some Kids Café programs also offer a safe place, where under the supervision of trustworthy staff, a child can get involved in educational, recreational and social activities that draw on existing community programs and often include family members.

I am honored that the Masterfoods USA Greenville facility is located within my district. I ask you, Madam Speaker, and my colleagues to join me in commending Masterfoods USA, and in particular, its Greenville facility and its officials, for their many years of service and commitment to the Mississippi Delta region. I look forward to ap-

plauding their continued growth and success for many years to come.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COUNCIL'S SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th Anniversary of the Hispanic Community Affairs Council's Scholarship Awards Program. On May 3, 2007, members of the community will gather at Chabot Community College in Hayward, California to honor this milestone achievement.

The Hispanic Community Affairs Council (HCAC) is a community-based organization in Alameda County, California. It was organized in 1978 by a group of individuals interested in providing a forum to debate issues of interest to the Latino/Hispanic communities, to share information regarding employment opportunities and to develop a broad network of concerned individuals. The overall purpose of HCAC is to promote the value of education, cultural diversity, community involvement and political awareness.

A primary focus of the HCAC is the promotion of higher education in the Hispanic community through its annual Scholarship Awards Program. Since the establishment of this program, HCAC has awarded more than one million dollars to over 1,200 students for their pursuit of higher education. Scholarship recipients will attend 4-year colleges and universities, community colleges, vocational training schools, or engage in graduate studies.

In 1983 HCAC awarded two scholarships. As the program continued to progress, HCAC celebrated its 20th year by awarding 100 scholarships. In 2005 HCAC awarded over 1,000 scholarships and in 2006, the organization reached a milestone of over one million dollars in scholarship awards.

One hundred percent of the money HCAC raises goes into its scholarship program. The organization does not have paid staff and everyone working on the scholarship program is a volunteer. Scholarships of \$1,500 to students attending a 4-year college or post graduate program and \$750 awards to students attending a community college are based on academic achievement, financial need, and a commitment by the students to give back to their respective communities after completing their education and achieving their career goals.

The Hispanic Community Affairs Council is an exemplary non-profit organization providing invaluable opportunities for Hispanic students to pursue their higher education. I applaud the efforts of the partners of HCAC who contribute

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

financially to the scholarship program and the volunteers who also work tirelessly to ensure the success of this model scholarship awards program.

TRIBUTE TO AUTUMN NICOLE
MITCHELL OF KNOXVILLE, TEN-
NESSEE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding young woman, Autumn Nicole Mitchell. Audi, as she is known to her friends and family, made a decision about 18 months ago to help support the Wigs 4 Kids cancer support network by growing her hair and then donating it to other children without hair of their own.

Wigs 4 Kids is a charitable organization that provides wigs and services to children who have lost their hair due to illness or disease. Wigs 4 Kids' main focus is on cancer patients, but also includes other young people who face similar challenges that cause hair loss, including: alopecia, trichotillomania, lupus, hydrocephalus, burns and other disorders. When donating their hair, young girls like Audi must go to special salons that know how the hair must be cut in order to be made into wigs for others.

Audi is a typical, healthy young girl who genuinely cares about her friends and neighbors. Hearing about the thousands of other children who lost their hair to cancer and other diseases, Audi decided on her own that she would grow out her hair so that she could donate it to Wigs 4 Kids. It takes an exceptional type of young person to recognize the needs of others, and then to take affirmative action to help them in their time of need.

Madam Speaker, I have seen the before and after photos of young Audi. Once her long, straight hair is made into a wig, I know that her beautiful hair will look great on another young child looking to regain some of their self-esteem following their hair loss. Audi is to be commended for her selfless act and for being an example to other children in her school and neighborhood. I know that her generosity will be appreciated by the Wigs 4 Kids program, and trust that this act of compassion will follow Audi throughout her life.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP ANGELO
ROSARIO

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Bishop Angelo Rosario, of Bronx, NY. Bishop Rosario is being honored for his leadership and service to the community by the Committee for Effective Leadership and the New York State Democratic Committee. Bishop Angelo M. Rosario has been in pastoral ministry for the past 44 years and embarked on this path at the age of 18 while working with youth

at a storefront church in the South Bronx. His ministerial work was guided by the leadership of the late Rev. Clemente Repollet. Bishop Rosario was the youngest person to be ordained at the Assembly of Christian Churches and remained there for over 25 years. He studied and eventually taught at the A.I.C. Theological Institute and the Latin American Bible Institute.

Bishop Rosario and his wife, Rev. Nancy, founded and presently preside over Church of God's Children in the highly populated housing complex of Co-Op City in the Bronx. This institution presents a wide variety of year-round educational, spiritual and community-minded programs ranging from quality after-school care and pastoral counseling to job placement and health services. Bishop Rosario has organized many activities in the Co-Op City and Bronx Community, among them the Somalia Relief Fund, United Day of Prayer, Youth Day, and job and health fairs.

He is a co-chair of Community Board 10 in the Bronx and is the CEO of the Borough President's Bronx Clergy Task Force whose mission is to bring all faiths together to work for the betterment of the community through quality education health care and financial stability through the houses of worship and community organizations.

From the streets of South Bronx to the pulpit, Bishop Rosario has dedicated himself to helping the community. He is an advocate for community development according to biblical principles. He believes in one race—the human race.

Bishop Rosario and his wife share a family of 10 children and 22 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Bishop Rosario best wishes and good fortune in his future projects.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 176, passage of H.R. 1284—Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2007, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

COMMENDING WEYERHAEUSER'S
DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Weyerhaeuser Corporation and its wonderful community service in assisting in the relief efforts and the rebuilding of the gulf coast that was devastated by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. This outstanding company has gone well beyond the call of duty, truly exemplifying what community service is.

The Weyerhaeuser Company was incorporated in 1900, and is one the world's largest

integrated forest product companies, headquartered in Federal Way, Washington, employing over 49,000 people in 18 countries. In 2005, they recorded sales of \$22.6 billion, and the company manages more than 6.5 million acres of timberlands in nine States. I am pleased to note that 14 locations of the Weyerhaeuser Corporation are in Mississippi including several around the Second District.

In recognition of their outstanding community service and dedication to helping those who need it most, Weyerhaeuser Corporation has been recognized with the Ron Brown Award. This is the only Presidential award to honor companies "for their exemplary quality of their relationships with employees and communities." This award is presented to companies that have set forth strong initiatives to strengthen their employees and the community that surrounds them, as well as promote pioneering business initiatives. The Ron Brown Award was originally established by President Bill Clinton after the late Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown, who believed that "businesses do well by doing good." In my opinion, there is no better choice for this award than the Weyerhaeuser Company for its outstanding work and dedication to our country.

On November 29, 2006, chairman, president and CEO of Weyerhaeuser, Steve Rogel, accepted the Ron Brown Award from U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez at a ceremony at the White House. Mr. Rogel accepted the award and dedicated it to Weyerhaeuser's disaster relief coordinator, Katy Taylor, along with the partners and volunteers who attended the ceremony.

Also recognized in the White House ceremony was the North Carolina Baptist Builders, with whom Weyerhaeuser teamed up in the gulf coast relief efforts. The North Carolina Baptist Builders is a faith-based organization that set forth a large mission to rebuild 600 homes along the coast. To the credit of the Baptist Builders, the Weyerhaeuser Company recognized their "smoothly run rebuilding operation to keep projects moving." It is this kind of forward thinking and teamwork that makes the Weyerhaeuser Company so deserving of the Ron Brown Award.

I am honored to have such a wonderful and dedicated company that operates in Mississippi in places such as Magnolia, Philadelphia, and Richland. Weyerhaeuser Company has been operating in Mississippi since 1956 with approximately 1,700 employees and 776,000 acres of timberland.

The dedication of Weyerhaeuser to the community is astounding and sets a shining example to other businesses about the importance of community service and helping the less fortunate. To date, over 300 employees and retirees from across the United States and Canada have volunteered more than 42,000 hours of their time and helped rebuild 50 plus homes. Weyerhaeuser has a truly generous policy of allowing employees 2 to 4 weeks' paid leave to help volunteer in the rebuilding efforts of the gulf coast. Not only does it pay its employees while they are volunteering their time, but it also pays their way and their spouses' way for the rebuilding efforts. Now, over a year later, Weyerhaeuser employees are still participating in reconstruction efforts and have contributed a combined disaster relief to date totaling more than \$2.8 million. This is nothing short of extraordinary.

While I can only mention some of the accomplishments of Weyerhaeuser Company's contribution, it is the people of Weyerhaeuser have that truly made the difference to individuals, families and the community as a whole. As one family wrote in response to the help from Weyerhaeuser volunteers, "Because of all your efforts, we are home! Words cannot truly express the outpouring of love we have received. We are eternally grateful to our Weyerhaeuser family." This shows how the assistance of strangers can surely touch one's life and make their life better and give true meaning for caring in the community.

A sign of the high caliber of individuals Weyerhaeuser employs is some of the comments that went to the gulf coast to help. One man noted, "The days were long and hot, the work was intense, but the rewards were immeasurable. This has been an experience I won't soon forget." Another volunteer employee commented, "This experience was such a blessing. I got so much more from it than I felt I gave." Even Weyerhaeuser's retirees participated and one reflected of the occasion to assist those in need saying, "Having once more the opportunity to work side by side with other Weyerhaeuser employees and retirees made me realize anew why I enjoyed working for Weyerhaeuser so much. It's all about the people and the values the company ascribes to. Thanks again."

Testimonies such as these speak volumes of Weyerhaeuser Company and its dedication to its employees and others. It goes beyond helping those who are under its employment, but it extends a helping hand to strangers to make the world a better place to live.

I am pleased that Weyerhaeuser has had a long standing tradition in Mississippi and especially in the Second District. It is without question an admirable and outstanding company that lives up to the highest meaning of community service.

Weyerhaeuser's dedication to helping others is immeasurable and I cannot thank the company enough for the work they have done and continue to do. It is truly deserving of such a prestigious award, and I am delighted to see Weyerhaeuser's efforts have been recognized by the administration. The work of their employees and retirees shows that there is no one more deserving.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDEN AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Eden Area League of Women Voters celebrating their 50th Anniversary on April 13, 2007. The Eden Area League serves the communities of Castro Valley, Hayward, San Leandro and San Lorenzo, California.

The Hayward Area League joined with the San Leandro League in 1988 to become the Eden Area League of Women Voters.

The Hayward Area League of Women Voters was founded in 1957 by a group of Hayward, California women interested in non-partisan study of local and broader issues, and non-partisan voter education. The Hayward

Area League is an expression of the National League of Women Voters founded in 1920. The League is dedicated to enfranchising all voters, educating its members and the public on local, state and national issues, providing non-partisan public forums for candidate interviews and ballot measure discussions.

Members of the Eden Area League have devoted thousands of hours to their communities to improve voter knowledge of local, state and national issues. The members encourage community members to become involved with a special focus on educating voters on state ballot propositions, local issues and understanding governance structures.

The League, at all levels, has a well-deserved reputation for educating themselves and the public about critical public policy issues and events that shape our democratic process.

Over its 50 years of existence, the Eden Area League of Women Voters can point to a number of successful projects with pride. They have become an integral part of the cities they serve and provide an invaluable public service to our communities.

I express my heartiest congratulations to the Eden Area League of Women Voters on reaching a milestone 50th Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING MRS. CAROL AYER OF SPRING HILL, FLORIDA ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Carol Ayer, the outgoing director of the Nature Coast Festival Singers in Spring Hill, Florida. Carol has served the Singers for nearly 6 years with honor and distinction. Soon, she is leaving Florida to retire with her family in Wisconsin.

Carol Ayer has dedicated her life to music. After earning her degree in Music Education, Music Performance, and English Literature from Beloit Fine Arts College in Beloit, Wisconsin, Carol taught English and music to students of various ages throughout her career. First moving to Hernando county in 1990, Mrs. Ayer joined the alto section of the Nature Coast Festival Singers in 1996. The Singers were originally founded to sing The Messiah at Christmas pageants, but have since expanded to perform Christian music throughout the year.

Carol's late husband Peter served as director and conductor from 1998 until his tragic death in an airplane crash in 2001. Following his death, Carol was named the Director and Conductor of the Nature Coast Festival Singers, and during her tenure, the number of members increased every year, with nearly one hundred members performing in this spring's concert. As Conductor the musical emphasis on The Messiah maintained the sacred or classical nature of the Nature Coast Festival Music's charter.

The Nature Coast Festival Singers also established a scholarship in memory of Peter in thanks to Carol for her years of dedication. The group adds to this scholarship fund

through the generous offerings made at concerts. The singers fund three types of scholarships, two in conjunction with the Chocochatti Magnet School and the Brooksville Music Club, and one related to the members of the Nature Coast Festival Singers. These scholarships provide funds for the study of music to elementary age children, and high school and college students.

Madam Speaker, Carol Ayer's dedication to music and the community has served as an inspiration to thousands throughout Hernando County. It is clear from the attendance at local performances that Carol's love of music has been shared by many others. Carol is to be commended for her years of service, her commitment to the Lord, and for giving back to the community and its musically inclined children. Carol Ayer is a shining example of the good that serving Jesus Christ can bring to our friends and families, and she will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO YETTA G. KURLAND

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Yetta G. Kurland, of Bronx, NY. Ms. Kurland is being honored for her leadership and service to the community by the Committee for Effective Leadership and the New York State Democratic Committee. She has been an active proponent of civil rights in the New York City area for over a decade and is a lawyer who has dedicated her life to righting wrongs and truly creating a society based on "equal justice for all." The founder of her own law firm, Ms. Kurland has won some landmark victories, including those that deal with family child protections as well as a settlement against a major airline company for HIV discrimination.

She currently serves as Vice President for Communications for the Stonewall Democrats of New York City and chaired their First Annual Women's Event in June 2006. She has worked with many other organizations including the Gay Men's Chorus, Live Out Loud, and Gay Officers Action League and also sits on the executive committee of the National Lawyers Guild.

Ms. Kurland is involved in many legal associations, including the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Law Association of New York (LeGaL), the American Bar Association (ABA), the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA), the New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA), and the City Bar of New York. Additionally, she is the founder of Hello World Language Center, an alternative language and culture resource center, and is an adjunct professor at New York University where she teaches at the Steinhardt School of Education.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Ms. Kurland best wishes and good fortune in her future projects.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 178, passage of H.R. 740—Preventing Harassment through Outbound Number Enforcement (PHONE) Act of 2007, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was not able to attend a number of votes that took place March 21, 2007 on the House floor. I take my responsibility to vote very seriously and had I been present I would have voted: "Yea" on rollcall 167, Motion to Permit to Proceed in Order on This Day; "Nay" on rollcall 168, Neugebauer of Texas Amendment; "Nay" on rollcall 169, Price of Georgia Amendment; "Yea" on rollcall 170, Al Green of Texas Amendment, as Modified; "No" on rollcall 171, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions; "Aye" on rollcall 172, On Passage, Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act of 2007; "Yea" on rollcall 173, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunity Act; "Yea" on rollcall 174, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act; "Yea" on rollcall 175, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act; "Yea" on rollcall 176, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2007; "Yea" on rollcall 177, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Judicial Disclosure Responsibility Act; and "Yea" on rollcall 178, On Passage, Preventing Harassment through Outbound Number Enforcement (PHONE) Act of 2007.

IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP
FUELS AMERICAN ECONOMIC
GROWTH**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, the Center for an Urban Future recently released a report titled, "A World of Opportunity." The "report reiterates the fact that immigrant entrepreneurs are key engines of growth for many cities in the United States. Every census taken from 1880 to 1990 has revealed that immigrants were self-employed significantly more than American-born natives. The number of immigrant entrepreneurs in 2005 was 350 out of 100,000, compared to 280 of 100,000 for those born in the United States. Research maintains that immigrant entrepreneurs have

made positive contributions to the U.S. economy for more than a century.

Nowhere are the contributions of self-employed immigrants, to urban economies, more visible than in New York City, where people migrate from almost every part of the world. Despite ethnic differences, New York City immigrants often arrive with an entrepreneurial determination. Over the past 10 to 15 years, immigrant entrepreneurs have fueled much of the overall growth in new businesses across the City and have triggered dramatic turn-arounds in neighborhoods. Communities such as Sunset Park, Flushing, Richmond Hill and Washington Heights have all reaped from the seeds of growth powered by immigrant owned businesses. There is no doubt that Immigrants will continue to make significant contributions to the City's economic growth in the future.

There are several reasons why immigrants start their own businesses and in such record numbers. The risk of a business venture appears comparatively minimal to the surmountable risk immigrants have already taken when packing up their homes and moving to a country where the majority of the people do not speak their native language. Another motivation for immigrants to open up their own businesses is the recognition that they can offer a variety of products and services that many other entrepreneurs cannot. Similarly, many immigrants prefer the solace that comes with owning a business instead of having to deal with the numerous struggles and frustrations of participating in the large business work force where immigrants are often discriminated against, paid unfairly and required to work uncommon hours.

The stereotype that immigrant businesses represent small "mom-and-pop shops" such as restaurants and local grocery stores no longer holds true. Immigrant entrepreneurs have a growing presence in several vital sectors of the New York City's economy such as: biotechnology, construction, food manufacturing, mass transportation, telecommunications and restaurant equipment sales. Every year, Inc. Magazine publishes what they call the "Inc. 500," a list of America's fastest growing privately owned businesses. In 2005, 55 of Inc. Magazine's 500 business owners were immigrants. Collectively their companies employed more than 14,000 individuals and contributed almost \$1.4 billion to the U.S. economy.

At a time in which outsourcing and corporate mergers are on the rise, it is likely that small, home-grown businesses will only become more integral to New York City's future economic success. However, while celebrating these successes and contributions it is important to remember that many immigrants face considerable challenges when deciding to open a business. New York's regulatory environment can be daunting to any entrepreneur. The addition of language and cultural barriers, in many cases, exacerbate this process. Nonetheless, there are numerous organizations dedicated to educating entrepreneurs about how to start a business and overcome obstacles to growth, such as Seedco and the Economic Development Corporation, which offer classes on how to start a business, in Spanish and Chinese.

I commend all of those who have migrated to the United States in search of the American dream, pursuing happiness by establishing their own businesses and contributing positively to the fabric of our country's economy.

TRIBUTE TO PAMELA BATES

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Pam Bates, of Bronx, NY. Ms. Bates is being honored for her leadership and service to the community by the Committee for Effective Leadership and the New York State Democratic Committee. Ms. Bates is the mother of one daughter and two sons and the grandmother of nine wonderful additions to her family. She is a Graduate Student at Queens College pursuing a Master's Degree in Political Science and belongs to the CUNY Coalition for Disabled Students and the Queens College Committee for Disabled Students.

Ms. Bates is president of 504 North Star Democratic Club and sits on the executive board of the 504 Democratic Club which focuses on disability issues and rights. She is also on the Board of Directors of Center for Independence of the Disabled in New York and is a member of the executive board of Disabled in Action.

Ms. Bates serves on the Paratransit Advisory Committee and the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Commission, two positions which are appointed by the New York City Council. She is a member of the Manhattan Borough President's Disability Task Force and the Disability Network of New York City where she devotes much of her time conducting press conferences and attending hearings concerning disability rights and issues. She has testified at all levels of government on issues impacting the rights of the disabled. Additionally, Ms. Bates lobbies in Albany on behalf of the rights of disabled students.

Ms. Bates is a devout activist and advocate for the rights of people with mobility, sight, hearing, and mental impairments. As a result of her personal experiences as an African American, a woman, and a wheelchair user, she has given public lectures and written papers on the topics of disability and activism and our legislative process.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Ms. Bates best wishes and good fortune in her future projects.

INTRODUCTION OF FEDERAL
HOMELAND SECURITY PROCUREMENT
LEGISLATION**HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, as chairman of the Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Management, Investigations and Oversight, I am very concerned with the potential for waste, fraud and abuse at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

As we have heard all too often in recent months, the Department is spending increasing amounts of its resources on outside contractors to help fulfill its job of preparing, preventing and mitigating any future large-scale catastrophic events on our soil.

Unfortunately, the contracts are numerous, as are the dollars being doled out. Congress

has discovered that, government-wide, Federal agencies have had help developing requests for proposals (RFPs) for any number of goods and services from industry insiders, all in the interest of expediency.

While it is certainly reasonable for the government to consult with industry insiders during RFP development, it is deplorable for these industry insiders to make recommendations to the government that would result in only one selectable proposal: that from the company of the insider who assisted with the initial RFP.

Such action is wrong, yet it has happened on numerous occasions.

For example, starting in late 2003, DHS issued an RFP for "eMerge2," an effort to finish the consolidation of all of the financial systems of the DHS components into one new system. The eMerge2 RFP was drafted in large part by a single contractor. When the contract was awarded, it was split between two contractors, one of them being the company that helped write the RFP. Long story short: eMerge2 was a failure.

The questions raised by eMerge2 run deeper than "just" the federal dollars that were doled out without seeing any return. Indeed, the eMerge2 fiasco raised serious questions about whether more needs to be done, both by DHS and by contractors, to ensure that the "firewalls" contractors are using are actually working. This legislation answers some of those questions.

Similarly, when the Coast Guard (USCG) realized that the majority of its marine and aviation fleet was in desperate need of upgrade, it relied upon only two contractors to design the entire Deepwater project, without nearly enough consultation from USCG personnel. Now the Coast Guard has had to pull ships from service and is borrowing boats from the Navy. Our waters are less secure now than before 9/11 because of the fiasco that is Deepwater.

Surely, there have been examples of unnecessary government largesse resulting in waste. That said, while private industry as a contracting partner can save taxpayer dollars, I am skeptical that a business that helped to write an RFP and was the only business qualified to receive it really has the taxpayers' best interests in mind. In fact, this type of malfeasance is criminal, in my opinion.

This legislation seeks to eliminate the potential for future abuses of Federal homeland security procurement dollars. It would require that any contract entered into after May 1, 2007 is not awarded to companies who played a role in constructing the RFP for said contract. If the company is awarded the contract, the Secretary of Homeland Security must certify to Congress that the contract was issued through a competitive process and that DHS took all appropriate measures to ensure that during the RFP design stage, any potential contractor could not influence the RFP to favor itself. Additionally, it would allow for contractors who had input in the process to be hired as subcontractors if they had input designing the RFP but were not ultimately selected as the lead contractor.

I would encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this necessary legislation, which has the potential to save the Federal Government hundreds of millions of dollars, if not more annually. The financial resources of the Federal Government are limited. It should not

be as easy as it currently is to game the system and bilk tens of millions of dollars at a time out the Department of Homeland Security's budget.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN S.
NIGRELLI, SR.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. John S. Nigrelli, Sr., Chairman of the United Savings Bank. Mr. Nigrelli has been chosen as the recipient of the 2007 Achievement Award sponsored by the Association Regionale Calabrese of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Nigrelli's lifetime of excellence and achievement began at the Lawrence Savings and Loan Association. During his time there, he began night school to further his education and completed an Associate degree in business administration from the Wharton School of The University of Pennsylvania.

While attending night school, Mr. Nigrelli dedicated himself to Albert Lawrence Savings and Loan in an effort to continue his advancement through the bank. These tremendous efforts, both educational and professional, were recognized. In 1963, Mr. Nigrelli was elected as an officer of the bank. Throughout his career, he continued to conquer his professional goals and continued his quest for education and knowledge. In 1970, he was elected Executive Vice President and in 1977, he was named President and C.E.O. He continued to hold that position until 2006 when he was named Chairman and C.E.O. As Albert Lawrence Savings and Loan transformed into United Savings Bank throughout the years, Mr. Nigrelli's experience has always guided the bank to unparalleled success.

The bank flourished under Mr. Nigrelli's leadership, knowledge, and experience. His efforts were recognized not only by the community of Philadelphia but by several publications, as one of the most established and stable banks in the city.

Even today, Mr. Nigrelli's kindness is felt through the organizations and charities in which he is a part. Throughout his professional success, this great man was supported by his wife, Marie Pedano. Although she passed away in August 10, 2002, her inspiration continues to contribute to Mr. Nigrelli's continued success. John's endeavors have also been supported by his four beloved children and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. John Nigrelli, Sr. on his 2007 Achievement Award sponsored by the Association Regionale Calabrese. This great honor could not go to a better man.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 20, 2007, I was traveling with the

President of the United States to attend a meeting back in the district and thus missed rollcall votes #160 through 163. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on rollcall votes 161 and 162 and "Nay" on rollcall votes 160 and 163.

RECOGNIZING THE 42ND ANNIVERSARY OF MAUI ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, INC.

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 42nd Anniversary of Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO), which was chartered as a community action agency on March 22, 1965, by Federal mandate under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

The motto of MEO is "Helping People. Changing Lives." And for these past 42 years, MEO has maintained a successful record of service by providing basic tools for living, for earning, for self-reliance, and for community involvement.

MEO has initiated many important programs on the Valley Isle, which include specialized bus transportation for seniors, persons with disabilities, and youth; Head Start; Enlace Hispano; community reintegration of prison former inmates; micro-enterprise loans; business education for low income entrepreneurs; employment training and placement programs; Low Income Home Energy Assistance; and energy conservation and home energy assistance for low-income persons. Most impressively, MEO is able to serve all three islands that comprise the County of Maui: Maui, Lanai, and Molokai.

MEO is one of only a handful of agencies—out of over 1,000 community action agencies nationwide—selected by the National Community Action Partnership to receive an Agency of Excellence Award, highlighting superior administrative operations and program excellence. This translates into advocacy and outstanding services tailored to the needs of the Maui community.

I would like to extend a sincere mahalo nui loa (thank you very much) to the staff of MEO for their hard work and dedication. May the next four decades prove to be as successful.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTOPHER JAMES CEPEDA FERNANDEZ

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise with heavy heart to mourn with my constituency the loss of Guam, Army National Guardsman Specialist Christopher James Cepeda Fernandez.

On March 5, 2007, Specialist Fernandez, a 28-year-old father of one, was killed while serving on deployment in support of the Combined Joint Task Force in the Horn of Africa. Due to Christopher's patriotism and sacrifice to our country, he was posthumously promoted to Sergeant.

Service men and women from Guam have always been willing and ready to answer the call to arms to defend this great Nation, and we—their families, friends and neighbors—have always supported them, knowing the risk. As people of a small island community, the ties among us are very deep.

Sgt. Chris Fernandez was the son of Joseph Mendiola Fernandez and Marie Cepeda Fernandez of the “Golo” and “Chungi” clans. He was the brother of John, Carmela, Stephanie and Michelle Fernandez, and the doting father of six-year-old Kaenani Lei Gual Fernandez, whom he adored. According to his family, Chris loved to take Kaenani to the movies, shopping—almost everywhere she wanted to go. He made the most of the time he could spend with her.

When not with Kaenani, Chris enjoyed playing basketball and baseball, among other sports. He also liked fishing, drag-racing, and barbecuing with friends. He attended John F. Kennedy High School and graduated from Guam Community College. Madam Speaker, I offer these bits of personal information because Sergeant Christopher James Cepeda Fernandez deserves to be remembered as more than a name on a casualty list. He was a son of Guam, a proud soldier, willing and prepared to defend his country and his home island, no matter what the price. And he paid that price.

Christopher James Cepeda Fernandez lost his life in the noble effort to rebuild a nation in freedom so that others might some day know the joys of liberty and justice.

With heavy but proud hearts, I extend heartfelt condolences and profound sympathy to Chris's family on behalf of the People of Guam and a grateful nation. Chris was a caring son, a loving brother and friend, a devoted father, and a proud American patriot.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIBRARY OF THE CHATHAMS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Library of the Chatham Public Library of Chatham Borough and Chatham Township, Morris County, New Jersey, vibrant communities that I am proud to represent! On June 9, 2007, the good citizens of the township and borough will celebrate their library's 100th Anniversary with an old fashioned ice cream social.

On June 1, 1907, the Chatham Public Library opened in the new Borough Hall and Fire House at 10 Fairmount Avenue and the first library card was issued. In 1920, the library moved to the corner of Fairmount Avenue and Main Street because there was a trolley stop there and display windows for books. The library moved again in 1924, this time to the Fairview Hotel site, where it remains today.

By 1932, there were 2,415 registered borrowers, more than 50 percent of the population. In 1957, the library held 27,500 books, 100 periodicals, foreign language records, musical and dramatic recordings, art reproductions, a Great Books Club, Home Reader service, Storyhour, Storytime, and a playpen.

Two wings were added to the original 1924 building in the early sixties, the first was the west wing to house the Children's collection and the second was the east wing to house the Adult and Young Adult collections.

A major change took place in 1975. After several years of discussions, meetings and presentations, a referendum was placed on the November, 1975 ballot, asking for approval of jointure—to form a library serving both towns. It passed and on January 1, 1975, the Chatham Public Library became the Joint Free Public Library of the Chathams. All residents and those working in the Chathams are entitled to free borrowing privileges. The Library is tax supported on a per capita basis by both municipalities, and administered by six jointly appointed trustees with five year terms, a representative of the school system and both mayors or their representative.

1985 saw the Library become fully automated in MAIN (Morris Automated Information Network) which joins all Morris County libraries by computer database. Renovations and additions have occurred on a regular basis, the last being one for more than \$4 million, which opened to the public on January 11, 2004. Today approximately 182,000 items are circulated annually, and 9,668 cards are in existence!

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Library of the Chathams on the celebration of its 100th Anniversary!

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST BRYAN ANDERSON

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. RENZI. Madam Speaker, a good friend of mine, Neill Sachs, recently wrote me about a co-worker of his, an Iraq veteran, Specialist Bryan Anderson. In late 2005, Specialist Anderson's Humvee was struck by a roadside bomb while driving in Baghdad. Specialist Anderson lost both of his legs and most of his left arm as a result of the blast.

Anderson was sent to Walter Reed Army Medical Center for rehabilitation. After spending over a year of intensive and grueling 6 hours a day, 5 days a week therapy sessions, Specialist Anderson has returned home to Illinois to a heartfelt hero's welcome.

He will undoubtedly require treatment for the rest of his life, and he will need our financial and medical support. As we begin our work in the 110th Congress, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work together and ensure that our servicemembers, such as Specialist Anderson, are given the medical care, benefits, and the tools they need to succeed in civilian life.

I am deeply grateful for Specialist Anderson and the other men and women in our Armed Services.

HONORING ALEX HALBERSTEIN

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Southeast Region of the Boys Town Jerusalem for their initiative to honor Alex Halberstein. I am very pleased that on March 28, 2007 we will express our respect and appreciation for the one of the most outstanding members of the Greater Miami Jewish community.

More than 32 years ago, Alex Halberstein immigrated to the United States. He started working for the Pan Amco Finance Cooperation that is involved in transactions on behalf of Florida/Latin American importers and exporters. Following, he became the head of the International Division and Executive Vice President of Capital Bank. Alex is currently an International Bank Consultant.

Throughout his career, Alex has always been active in community service. Alex gives much of his time and energy to enrich the lives of the members of our community. He serves as a member on the boards of the Jewish Community Services, Florida Friends of Hebrew University; Hillel Council and the greater Miami Jewish Federation. He also serves as a member of the National Executive Board and the Miami Dade County Executive board of AIPAC. In addition, Alex is the chairman of the Florida Congressional Committee, co-chair of the North Dade Campaign, chairman of the Latin America Migration Campaign and vice president of the international division of the Israel and Overseas, and Allocation Committee past treasurer and secretary.

In addition to his tremendous service to our community, Alex also demonstrates a passionate commitment to make the lives of economically disadvantaged Israelis better and their futures brighter. By embracing the mission of the Boys Town Jerusalem Foundation, he enables many young Israelis to become leaders in the fields of technology, commerce, education, the military and public service.

As Americans and citizens of humanity, we owe a debt of gratitude for his invaluable contributions to build a better future for our Nation and our world. Alex is leading an example for others in our community. He is a successful banker and a truly remarkable community leader. But above all else, Alex Halberstein is a wonderful human being.

Without reservation, I support the Southeast Region of the Boys Town Jerusalem in recognizing the great honor being bestowed upon Alex Halberstein and wish him continued happiness in the future.

TRIBUTE TO JUNE BUCHANAN CRUSADERS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the players and coaches of the 2006–2007 June Buchanan Crusaders basketball team.

In Kentucky, basketball is something of an institution. It embodies a tremendous spirit of

teamwork and dedication, and the Crusaders have shown that they possess both characteristics. The Bluegrass State is widely known for producing great basketball teams, and the June Buchanan Crusaders are no exception. Making it to the state tournament marks a tremendous milestone in their journey for excellence, and I am proud of their accomplishment.

June Buchanan School is located in the small town of Pippa Passes, Kentucky and has 74 students in grades 9 through 12. After winning the regional championship in Southern Kentucky (26–6), the team is playing in the first round of the Kentucky state basketball tournament at Rupp Arena tonight.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the Crusaders for their tremendous success throughout the entire season and wish them the best in the boy's state basketball tournament. Through their hard work, determination, and skill they have made Southeastern Kentucky very proud. I ask each of my colleagues to join me in honoring the June Buchanan basketball team.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, since the United States embarked on a mission to rid the world of terrorism, many of our friends around the world have distanced themselves from America, hoping that will shield them from the wrath of the terrorists will one day bring to their countries. Indonesia has done the opposite: the government of the country home to the world's largest population of Muslims has instead forged stronger ties with the United States.

Recognizing Indonesia's importance on the global stage, its government—first under Megawati Soekarnoputri, and since then, under the leadership of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono—has worked closely with the United States to fight terrorism, and the spread of radical Islamism. This alliance has come at no small cost to the Indonesians, as terrorists have repeatedly punished Indonesia by targeting hotels, nightclubs and other tourist attractions with deadly acts of terrorism. Nevertheless, the government of Indonesia has not wavered in its commitment, and has proven itself to be a great friend to the United States.

As Indonesia has supported the United States in our Global War against Terrorism, it is important that the United States continues to support Indonesia by recognizing its sovereignty, and that it doesn't intervene into Indonesia's internal matters. The government of Indonesia has proven itself to be more than sufficiently mature and responsible to handle its own internal issues, which relate only to Indonesians, and the United States should respect its abilities. The government of Indonesia has shown America that respect, and I believe we owe it to them to do the same.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PENSION ADJUSTMENT EQUITY ACT OF 2007

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, along with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. PLATTS, I am proud to introduce the Federal Law Enforcement Pension Adjustment Equity Act of 2007. I am also very pleased to have other distinguished members of this body as original cosponsors of this important bipartisan legislation, including Mr. STUPAK of Michigan and Ms. JO ANN DAVIS, Mr. MORAN and Ms. DRAKE of Virginia.

Retirees of the United States Park Police and the Secret Service Uniformed Division who began their careers before January 1, 1984, were promised that, upon retirement, they would receive increases in their annuities proportional to pay increases for active duty servicemen and women. However, language included into the 2001 Consolidated Appropriations Act specifically denied this promise to this group of retirees as a cost-saving measure.

As a consequence, these retirees have been denied an annuity increase at great personal financial cost, even though they entered federal uniformed service with the promise that these annuities would be there for them upon retirement. This is a gross injustice to those who put their lives on the line every day in service to their country.

That is why we are introducing the Federal Law Enforcement Pension Adjustment Equity Act of 2007, to ensure that Congress does what is right, what is just and what is fair. This legislation is bipartisan and should not be controversial. It is my hope that this body can move this bill expeditiously through the legislative process and correct an injustice against uniformed federal personnel who have been willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to serve our country.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today is National Agriculture Day. National Agriculture Day occurs every year on the first day of Spring. This is a week when we honor agriculture for providing safe, abundant and affordable products, a strong economy, a source of renewable energy, and a world of job opportunities.

It goes without saying that agriculture is tremendously important to my district and the nation as a whole, and I hope you join me in celebrating everyone who works so hard to provide for the world.

The Third District of Nebraska is one of the largest agricultural districts in the country. Our district ranks first in the value of sales of grains and oilseeds, second in total value of agricultural products sold, and first in cattle and calve inventory.

Simply put: Agriculture matters. National Agriculture Week is about celebrating the impact the industry has on our State, our Nation, and our everyday lives. I'm proud to represent the Third District of Nebraska, a district that truly embodies the spirit of this celebration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAIL-IN- BALLOT TRACKING ACT OF 2007

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Mail-In Ballot Tracking Act of 2007—a bill to implement procedures for tracking the growing number of ballots in States throughout the country that are transmitted through the mail.

Although voters across the Nation are increasingly choosing to cast their ballots by mail because it is more convenient and they have more time to study their choices, many voters have been hesitant to do so because, quite frankly, they are worried that they cannot determine for certain where their mail ballots are in the system and whether they were actually received and counted.

In most cases, the fears of one's mail-in ballot somehow being lost in the system are unfounded—but we all know the fear is still there. Our Nation's voters deserve electoral procedures that are transparent and which strengthen their faith in democracy.

Sometimes there is reason for concern. I have heard horror stories from people who simply did not receive a ballot they requested.

Other voters have called their overwhelmed elections offices and waited on hold for too long trying to find out whether their ballot has been mailed or received. Even when they get to speak with an informed elections official, that official often cannot tell the voter where the ballot is because it is somewhere in the postal system.

The good news is that it is possible and practical to track mail ballots.

We have been tracking the process of overnight packages for years by using the Internet and the telephone. There is no reason why we cannot track ballots using similar technology.

In fact, some jurisdictions such as San Mateo County, CA are already tracking ballots with great success.

The United States Postal Service is currently introducing an "Intelligent Mail" system which, if applied to election mail, will allow voters to find out via the Internet or the telephone which postal processing facility last handled their ballots and when they were handled there.

Quite simply, the technology will soon exist to seamlessly track ballots from the time they are sent out from the appropriate elections office to the time they are received back and include all the key postal points along the way.

Implementing ballot tracking systems will bring voters peace of mind and reduce the burden on elections offices which are often barraged with phone calls from voters trying to determine the status of their ballots.

This legislation will also allow a voter to know whether his or her ballot passed the verification stage and will be counted.

Not only is mail ballot tracking feasible and helpful, but it is also affordable.

Setting up systems at an elections office can be as simple as redesigning a website.

Adding barcodes to envelopes already going through the postal process can cost tiny fractions of a penny per piece.

Purchasing any additional scanning or telephone equipment is also relatively inexpensive for election technology.

Mail ballot tracking could even help elections offices save money in the long run as call volumes will likely go down and the strain on staff declines.

Mail ballot tracking is a win-win for all.

I believe it will increase voter participation as it increases peace of mind.

We should follow the lead of the trailblazers who are already tracking mail ballots and ensure this level of security, transparency, and accountability to all voters who either choose to vote by mail or who live in one of the growing number of localities holding all-mail elections.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this effort to strengthen the democratic process and give American voters the electoral certainty they deserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I was not present for votes on Monday, March 19 and Tuesday, March 20, 2007 because I was meeting with British Members of Parliament in an effort to build an international coalition to end the Iraq War. If I was present, I would have voted:

"Yea" on rollcall No. 157 (H.R. 138, Recognizing the importance of Hot Springs National Park on its 175th anniversary);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 158 (H.R. 658, Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 159 (H.R. 839, Arthur V. Watkins Dam Enlargement Act);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 160 (H. Res. 254, Providing for consideration of the bill [H.R. 1227] to assist in the provision of affordable housing to low income families affected by Hurricane Katrina);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 161 (H. Con. Res. 42, Honoring the heroic service and sacrifice of the 6,500 glider pilots of the United States Army Air Forces during World War II);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 162 (H.R. 759, Redesignating the Ellis Island Library on Ellis Island, NY as the "Bob Hope Memorial Library");

"Yea" on rollcall No. 163 (On approving the Journal);

"No" on rollcall No. 164 (Hensarling Amendment to H.R. 1227, to require recipients of rental assistance under the bill to perform 20 hours per week of approved work activities);

"No" on rollcall No. 165 (Biggert Amendment to H.R. 1227, to require that, instead of replacing all pre-Katrina public housing units, only the number of public housing units occupied pre-Katrina be replaced); and

"Aye" on rollcall No. 166 (Al Green Amendment to H.R. 1227, to extend FEMA housing assistance for evacuees of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma until December 31, 2007 and

provide tenant-based voucher assistance upon termination of FEMA housing assistance for eligible families)

PREVENTING HARASSMENT THROUGH OUTBOUND NUMBER ENFORCEMENT (PHONE) ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 740, because it is important that we broaden the scope of current law to prohibit a person from engaging in "spoofing," which is the use of incorrect, fake or fraudulent caller identification—caller ID—to hide their identity in order to facilitate a fraudulent telephone call to the recipient. In addition, the bill provides the tools needed for the Department of Justice to prosecute and protect against criminals who engage in spoofing.

H.R. 740, the Preventing Harassment through Outbound Number Enforcement—PHONE—Act of 2007, is intended to help protect consumers from harassment, identity theft, and other crimes. The legislation creates a new Federal crime to prohibit using or providing, in interstate or foreign commerce, false caller ID information with the intent to defraud.

Recently, the technology needed to spoof has become readily available, either through the purchase of Internet telephone equipment or through Web sites specifically set up to spoof. For example, Voice-over-Internet-Protocol—VOIP—equipment can easily be configured to populate the caller ID field with information of the user's choosing. Some of the technology can block any back technology such as the star symbol or dash 69.

Caller ID spoofing is a form of identity theft that can cause damaged credit and financial ruin. Call recipients sometimes divulge personal and private information to the spoofer, under the mistaken belief that the caller is a legitimate caller. For example, the AARP—formerly the American Association of Retired Persons—has reported cases in which people received calls that made false claims that they missed jury duty. To avoid prosecution, these individuals were told they needed to provide their Social Security number and other personal information. The phone number that appeared on their caller ID was from the local courthouse, so people assumed the caller was telling the truth.

In addition to identity theft, spoofing invades the privacy of those individuals whose caller ID is used to mask fraudulent calls and can be used as a form of aggressive harassment. The use of this technology has been linked to fraud, prank telephone calls, political attacks, and telemarketers who attempt to avoid the current "do not call" limits.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 740 and urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

186TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in acknowledgement of last week's consideration and passage of H. Res. 228, a bill recognizing the 186th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

I am honored to have supported a bill whose significance is so extensive and which has such enormous personal meaning to me.

My paternal grandfather emigrated from Greece in the early 20th century and earned his citizenship in his new country by fighting in World War I. My father, Socrates, continued the Space family's patriotic tradition by serving in the Marines during the Korean War. After the war, my father attended Ohio State's law school, thanks to the GI Bill.

I am immensely proud of my Greek heritage, but I'm also proud of the Greek American community. In fact, I'm proud of the symbiotic relationship between my Greek heritage and the Greek-American legacy.

The opportunities afforded to my father and my father's father in America were—in my opinion—a result of the democratic by-products of freedom and liberty that Americans enjoy, thanks to the Greeks.

Early on, America's Founding Fathers looked to the ancient Greeks and their enlightened society for inspiration in forming a new government. In fact, American representative democracy, as we know it, is rooted in the philosophy and ethos of the Greeks.

Today, as we celebrate the anniversary of this wonderful Nation's independence, it's important that we continue to recognize the significance of Greek contributions to the global society. As an American, and as a Greek, I very much support the sentiment of H. Res. 228.

HONORING U.S. NAVY COMMANDER CAROL BOHN

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my Colleagues to join me in honoring Commander Carol Bohn, U.S. Navy, Retired.

Commander Bohn provided outstanding service to our country as a commissioned officer, and in retirement, she continues to provide exceptional service to the Tri Valley community and to our men and women in uniform.

Commander Bohn's family instilled in her a deep-rooted sense of commitment to public service. Her late mother and father were World War II veterans, her sister currently serves as a Captain in the U.S. Navy and her brother serves as a Captain in the Navy Reserve.

Commander Bohn gave 25 years of exemplary service to our country in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corp. This included a tour aboard the Hospital Ship USNS Mercy during Operation Desert Storm, when she provided care and comfort to wounded service members.

A member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) for approximately fifteen years, Commander Bohn now serves as Chaplain for the VFW Pleasanton Post #6298. In the course of her service with the VFW, Commander Bohn has participated in numerous color guards for various community groups and organizations. She was also instrumental in leading drives to obtain phone cards and other essential items for our nation's troops. Her efforts not only won her Post an award, but more importantly, they improved the morale of our men and women in uniform deployed overseas. On March 17, 2007, Commander Bohn's Post presented her with a special award for her unquestioned patriotism and continued diligence to recognize and honor all veterans.

Commander Bohn has resided in Pleasanton for the past 20 years. Each year, Pleasanton hosts a Veterans Day Parade honoring those who have served and continue to serve our great nation. Commander Bohn is instrumental in the planning and implementation of this event, which honors the many sacrifices made by our fighting men and women. Through Commander Bohn's tireless efforts, the people of Pleasanton and the 11th Congressional district are assured that our veterans will not be forgotten.

Equally committed to public service and to her family, Commander Bohn is a dedicated wife, mother and grandmother. She is married to a retired Navy Commander, and together they have two children and four grandchildren. Commander Bohn's dedication is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States and serves as an example to all. For that reason, I ask my Colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding citizen and leader.

PERMITTING USE OF ROTUNDA FOR A CEREMONY COMMEMORATING THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 66, which authorizes the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust was not a random act of mass murder but a systematic campaign of genocide carried out by the Nazis against the Jews. The world must never forget the more than six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. In total, the victims accounted for more than 60 percent of the pre-World War II Jewish population of Europe.

We must never forget the evil acts that happened during that era and continue the fight against racism, intolerance, bigotry, prejudice, discrimination and anti-Semitism in every form today.

More than 60 years later, the Holocaust is still a presence, and there are living memorials all over the world dedicated to the memory of those who lost their lives in one of history's darkest hour and to the continuing education to conquer prejudice, hatred, and injustice.

As we authorize the rotunda of the Capitol to be used on April 19, 2007 for a ceremony as part of the commemoration for the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust, let us also be careful not to repeat history. We remember the atrocities that surround us today in the Darfur region of Sudan. It is right that we should gather at the rotunda to remember a period of such unspeakable horror that it will never be forgotten and which we must never again allow to happen.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 66 and authorize the use of the rotunda of the Capitol to commemorate those who perished in the Holocaust.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST- OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1284, a bill that will increase the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and also increase the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and as the son and grandson of American veterans, I fully support the implementation of this bill. Passing H.R. 1284 is a matter of fairness to our veterans. These brave men and women sacrificed the best years of their lives in service to our nation, and they deserve all the resources they were promised and have earned.

As the cost of living increases each year, so should the funds set aside for our nation's wounded warriors. It is unreasonable to ask our veterans to pay out of pocket for the services that they were promised, but that is unfortunately what happens when day-to-day living costs exceed veterans' disability compensation. For many veterans living on fixed incomes, they need the annual cost of living adjustment. Congress has an obligation to pass a cost of living adjustment measure to ensure that these veterans can continue their current standards of living and cover the costs of their basic needs.

H.R. 1284 also makes certain that the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of disabled veterans keep pace with annual inflation. The spouses and children of veterans often suffer silently on the sidelines as their loved ones struggle with combat-related disabilities. We owe it to veterans' strongest support network—the families of veterans—to meet their needs when addressing a cost of living adjustment.

I believe that Members on both sides of the aisle can and should rally behind this bill, as well as H.R. 327, the Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act, and H.R. 797, a bill to improve vision compensation benefits for veterans.

I urge the speedy passage of all three of these bills on behalf of Ohio 18's 66,000 veterans and all of America's veterans,

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I was granted a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No. 157 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 138)—“Aye”; Rollcall No. 158 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. R. 658)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 159 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 839)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 160 (On Agreeing to the Resolution on H. Res. 254)—“Nay”;

Rollcall No. 161 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 42, as amended)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 162 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 759)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 163 (On Approving the Journal)—“No”;

Rollcall No. 164 (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 1227 by Mr. Hensarling of Texas)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 165 (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 1227 by Ms. Biggert of Illinois)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 166 (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 1227 by Mr. Al Green of Texas)—“Nay”;

Rollcall No. 167 (On the Motion to Permit to Proceed in Order on This Day)—“Nay”;

Rollcall No. 168 (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 1227 by Mr. Neugebauer of Texas)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 169 (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 1227 by Mr. Price of Georgia)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 170 (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 1227 by Mr. Al Green of Texas)—“Nay”;

Rollcall No. 171 (On the Motion to Recommit H.R. 1227 with Instructions)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 172 (On Passage of H.R. 1227)—“Nay”;

Rollcall No. 173 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 835, as amended)—“Nay”;

Rollcall No. 174 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 327, as amended)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 175 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 797)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 176 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1284)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 177 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1130)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 178 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 740)—“Aye”.

IMPROVING COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR VETERANS IN CERTAIN CASES OF IMPAIRMENT OF VISION INVOLVING BOTH EYES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 797, to amend

title 38, United States Code, to improve compensation benefits for veterans in certain cases of impairment of vision involving both eyes. I strongly support veterans and more specifically blind veterans. I am a co-sponsor of this legislation. A few weeks ago I introduced H.R. 1240, the "Vision Impairment Specialist Training Act" to help our Nation's blind veterans.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 797 modifies the standard of awarding disability compensation to veterans for loss of vision to require payment of compensation for impairment of vision involving both eyes due to a service-connected and non-service connected disability.

There are 160,000 legally blind veterans in the United States, but only 44,000 are currently enrolled in Veterans Health Administration services. In addition, it is estimated that there are over 1 million low-vision veterans in the United States, and incidences of blindness among the total veteran population of 26 million are expected to increase by about 40% over the next few years. This is because the most prevalent causes of legal blindness and low vision are age-related, and the average age of the veteran population is increasing; the current average age is about 80 years old.

Members of the armed forces are important to our Nation and we show them our appreciation by taking care of them after they no longer serve. It is important to amend title 38 to ensure that our veterans are taken care of and that they receive the compensation that they deserve. Their service to this nation could never be repaid my monetary means, but we can ensure that the veterans that faithfully served our country are taken care of and amending this legislation sends a message to our veterans that we care about their health and well being long after their duty has expired.

In addition to enhancing compensation benefits for veterans, H.R. 797 requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide the Secretary of Health and Human Services with information for comparison with the National Directory of New Hires to determine eligibility for certain benefits and services. This process ensures that the proper protocol is followed in issuance of these benefits and that the benefits are distributed to the proper recipients.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 797 and I urge all members to do likewise.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "RE-EMPOWERMENT OF SKILLED AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES AND CONSTRUCTION AND TRADES WORKERS (RESPECT) ACT."

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to fight for middle class Americans by introducing the "Re-empowerment of Skilled and Professional Employees and Construction and Tradesworkers (RESPECT) Act." Day after day, middle class families are struggling to survive as their real incomes decline and the costs of basic necessities increase. A major contributor to this middle class squeeze is the decline in workers' freedom to organize and collectively bargain. Organized workers earn

more, have greater access to healthcare benefits, and are more likely to have guaranteed pensions than unorganized workers. When workers get their fair share, the economy benefits and the middle class grows stronger.

Yet the freedom to organize and collectively bargain has been under severe assault in recent decades, thanks to weak federal labor laws in dire need of reform. It has also been rolled back by a number of misguided decisions by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in the last few years. These decisions have operated to strip millions of workers entirely of their freedom to organize. The RESPECT Act serves to restore that freedom by addressing a series of decisions which stray dramatically from and undermine the original intent of the National Labor Relations Board and which fly in the face of common sense. This bill provides clarity in the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) on one aspect of the fundamental question of coverage: who is an employee and who is a supervisor.

Last year, the NLRB issued a trio of decisions, collectively often referred to as the "Kentucky River" decisions, which eviscerated the meanings of "employee" and "supervisor" under the NLRA. The NLRA protects employees' freedom to organize and collectively bargain. Supervisors are not considered employees and are therefore not covered by the Act's protections. If an individual is determined to be a supervisor, she has no right to organize, no right to engage in concerted activity with her fellow employees, and no right to collectively bargain. Every fundamental right protected by the Act may turn on this question of whether she is a supervisor or an employee. The Kentucky River decisions dramatically expanded the definition of supervisor far beyond the limits that the framers of the Act intended and far beyond the limits of common sense. In so doing, it stripped an estimated 8 million workers—particularly skilled and professional employees—of the freedom to organize.

In the workplace, people know who the supervisor is. A supervisor has the power to discipline, reward, promote, hire, and/or fire employees. The legislative history of the NLRA reflects these common sense understandings of who is or is not a supervisor. Congress drafted the NLRA to exclude from its protections only genuine supervisors with true management prerogatives, not minor supervisory employees, professionals, or skilled workers.

Yet the NLRB ignored common sense and legislative history in the Kentucky River decisions. For professional and skilled employees, who often provide direction to other employees, the NLRB's action is devastating. A nurse who directs another person to conduct a single, discrete task, such as clipping a patient's toenails, would be considered to have supervisory authority under these recent decisions. So would a nurse who assigns a patient to a nurse for a single shift.

A carpenter who tells an apprentice how to form a joint would also be considered to have supervisory authority. These skilled and professional workers have no power to promote, discipline, reward, hire, or fire—and yet they would be supervisors, according to the NLRB, even if they only held the authority to "direct" a person on single, discrete tasks just 10 percent of the time. Having been classified as a supervisor without realizing it, these employees may be subject to lawful discipline for trying to organize a union when they thought

they were employees with every right to organize.

Because of these decisions, over 8 million American workers are denied their fundamental freedom of association today. As the dissent pointed out in one of the decisions, 34 million Americans may fall into this category of workers stripped of their statutory rights by 2012.

The impact of the Kentucky River decisions is already being felt, particularly in the health care industry, where respect for workers' rights is critical to efficient health care delivery and high quality patient care. In a case in Utah, an NLRB Regional Director, applying the NLRB's new definition of "supervisor," found that virtually all of the registered nurses in a potential bargaining unit, 64 out of 88, were designated as supervisors, with the remaining 24 nurses excluded only because they had less than one year's service. Those remaining nurses will likely qualify as supervisors after they have completed their first year of nursing. Absurd decisions breed absurd results. As the New York Times explained in an October 7, 2006 editorial: "[R]esponsibilities like making out a schedule do not amount to management. If they did, interns would be the only non-managers in many of today's workplaces."

The Kentucky River decisions are not an anomaly for the current Board. In the last five years, the Board has repeatedly ruled to deny or restrict the fundamental rights of entire categories of workers. These include 45,000 disabled workers who lost their right to organize; 51,000 teaching and research assistants who lost their right to organize; and 2 million temporary workers who have had their right to organize severely curtailed.

The RESPECT Act will make two simple and clarifying changes to the definition of supervisor under the NLRA. It will: (1) eliminate the terms "assign" and "responsibility to direct" from the list of supervisory duties; and (2) require that employees possess supervisory duties during a majority of their work time in order to be excluded from coverage under the Act as a supervisor. Eliminating "assign" and "responsibility to direct" from the supervisor definition will effectuate Congress' intent to define supervisors as only those individuals who have genuine management prerogatives and the real authority to affect employees' terms of employment. As the NLRB has proven, these terms are open to abuse and misinterpretation, far afield from their common-sense and originally intended meanings, by those seeking to roll back workers' freedoms.

Requiring that employees possess supervisory duties for a majority of their work time will create a fair, bright-line rule when determining whether an individual is a supervisor. Someone who possesses a modicum of supervisory authority a minority of the time should not be denied their fundamental rights.

Madam Speaker, the NLRA guarantees the freedom to organize and collectively bargain for America's private sector workforce. That freedom is a fundamental human right and a proven key to a strong middle class. It is unconscionable that the rights of an estimated 8 million Americans—and many more in coming years—be put at risk by such deeply flawed decisionmaking as we have seen in the Kentucky River line of cases. The RESPECT Act does nothing more than clarify the law to ensure it is not misinterpreted or undermined on

a fundamental question of coverage. All workers, including skilled and professional workers, have the right to organize. The RESPECT Act does not allow true supervisors to engage in organizing or collective bargaining. But it ensures that those individuals who are excluded from the NLRA's protections due to their supervisory status do indeed carry the genuine prerogatives of management. I urge all of my colleagues to stand with me as we fight to return these fundamental protections to millions of workers who deserve the chance to win livable wages, fair benefits, decent working conditions, and a brighter future for their families.

HONORING STEPHEN TRACHTENBERG AS HE STEPS DOWN AS PRESIDENT OF GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, when I graduated from George Washington, I like to sometimes think only a few years ago, I did not realize that I would be so involved with the school later in my life. President Trachtenberg has made these efforts a joy and an honor, and we will miss his leadership.

His tenure as president transformed the university, marking major advancements across the board. Since taking the helm in 1988, the academics of GW have skyrocketed. The SAT scores of incoming students rose by 200 points and a significant percentage of students are now drawn from the top 10 percent of high school classes.

While enriching the academic environment at George Washington, President Trachtenberg also enhanced the financial situation. The school enjoyed a balanced budget under each year of your tenure, generating an endowment of nearly \$1 billion, up almost \$800 million since you started in 1988.

As Steve has often noted, GW has eight schools, over 100 programs, and nearly 20,000 students. And he adds, "GW is more than a university, it is also a community." Through his outstanding efforts, the university encompasses academics, research, entertainment, and an enjoyable experience for students, faculty and staff.

In total, 30 years of his amazing career went into leading a major university. He deserves more time at home, applying his energy and talents to his personal life. I understand his wife Francine is retired, but still very active in promoting the community's interest, and I bet she could use his help.

It has been an honor to work with President Trachtenberg on behalf of George Washington University—his tireless efforts have yielded immeasurable results—the school, Washington, D.C., our nation, and the world are better because of them.

JUDICIAL DISCLOSURE RESPONSIBILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1130, the "Judicial Disclosure Responsibility Act," because it extends until December 31, 2009, the authority conferred by the Congress on the Judicial Conference to redact personal and sensitive information from the published financial disclosure reports of judges and judiciary employees who have been threatened or otherwise have particular security risks.

Mr. Speaker, as I stated, H.R. 1130 would temporarily extend the authority of the Judicial Conference to withhold from disclosure certain personal and sensitive information of judges and judiciary employees. In addition, the bill expressly provides that concern for the safety of a judge's family as well as that of the judge is sufficient grounds to exercise the authority given. The bill, however, requires the Judicial Conference to provide detailed reports regarding such redactions to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the financial disclosure requirements were imposed by Congress in 1978 in response to the constitutional issues surrounding the Watergate crisis and the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon. The Ethics in Government Act was passed in 1978 and promotes ethics and openness in government by establishing rules of conduct for federal employees to reduce corruption and prevent the improper use of knowledge gained while employed by the government, and more broadly to prevent the appearance of impropriety.

The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 ("Act") applies to all branches of government, including the federal judiciary. Persons covered by the Act are required to disclose personal and financial information each year, including the source and amount of income, other than that earned as employees of the United States government received during the preceding calendar year. They must also disclose the source, description, and value of gifts for which the aggregate value is more than a certain minimal amount received from any source other than a relative; the source and description of reimbursements; the identity and category of value of property interests; the identity and category value of liabilities owed to creditors other than certain immediate family members; and other financial information. Under the Act, these reports are made public.

Among the types of sensitive personal information that might be disclosed in these reports are personal residences, the workplace of spouses, the name and location of a child's school; and an employee's vacation home.

In 1998, 20 years after the enactment of the Ethics in Government Act, the potential of these types of disclosures to place individual judges at serious risk of personal harm had become manifest. In 1979, U.S. District Court Judge John Wood, Jr., was fatally shot outside of his home by assassin Charles Harrelson. The murder contract had been placed by Texas drug lord Jamiel Chagra, who was awaiting trial before the judge.

In 1988, U.S. District Court Judge Richard Daronco was murdered at his house by

Charles Koster, the father of the unsuccessful plaintiff in a discrimination case. The following year, U.S. Circuit Court Judge Richard Vance was killed by a letter bomb sent to his home. The letter bomb was attributed to racist animus against Judge Vance for writing an opinion reversing a lower-court ruling to lift an 18-year desegregation order from the Duval County, Florida schools.

In light of these and other tragedies, Congress responded by adding a new subsection to the Ethics in Government Act temporarily authorizing the Judicial Conference to redact information from judges' financial disclosure reports under certain circumstances. Under that subsection, a report may be redacted "(i) to the extent necessary to protect the individual who filed the report; and (ii) for as long as the danger to such individual exists." The Act further charged the U.S. Judicial Conference, in consultation with the Department of Justice, with the task of submitting to the House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary an annual report documenting redactions.

In 2001, the House of Representatives approved a bill striking the sunset clause and making the redaction authority permanent but the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee did not concur. The Senate was concerned that such authority could hamper the effectiveness of the judicial confirmation and oversight process by unwarranted reliance on the redaction authority to avoid revealing stock holdings and other financial assets, and in some cases, the complete withholding of all financial information contrary to the intent of the statute. Ultimately, Senate recommended extending the redaction authority for 4 more years, until December 31, 2005. This authority has now expired and necessitates the extension provided by H.R. 1130.

Mr. Speaker, the Judiciary Committee considered and properly rejected permanently granting this authority to the Judicial Conference because of the legitimate concern that such authority could be abused in such a way as to withhold information that properly should be disclosed. A temporary 4-year extension, on the other hand, would effectively allow for a more in-depth investigation of areas of concern before Congress must decide whether to make the authority permanent. I believe this is the most prudent way to proceed.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1130 because it preserves an important means of protecting the safety of those who work in the federal judiciary. Particularly in this age of the global war on terror, the danger faced by federal judges, judicial officers, and court personnel is real, as illustrated by the three murders noted above. The recent and tragic murder of U.S. District Court Judge Joan Humphrey Letkow's husband and mother reminds us that the danger has not abated.

For all of these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1130 and urge by colleagues to do likewise.

186TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 186th Anniversary of Greek Independence Day.

After nearly four centuries of occupation by the Ottoman Empire, Greece declared her independence on March 25, 1821. This was not only a victory for the people of Greece but it was a victory for democracy.

Ancient Greece was the cradle of democracy, free thought, and free will. Our Founding Fathers modeled our nation's first laws after the teachings of such influential Greek scholars as Plato, Socrates and Aristotle. Greece's liberation in 1821 ensured that these democratic ideals would survive for perpetuity.

Today, we honor the ancient Greek influence on our country and we celebrate the mutual respect and beneficial relationship between our two nations. In every war in the 20th century, our countries fought side by side because we both understood the importance of spreading freedom throughout the world.

Because of our common history, shared values and commitment to democratic principles, the friendship between the U.S. and Greece will continue to grow.

I am proud to be able to honor Greece today as she celebrates 186 years of renewed freedom and I look forward to working with this spirited nation in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote 178 on H.R. 740, the Preventing Harassment through Outbound Number Enforcement (PHONE) Act of 2007. Had I voted, I would have voted "yea."

NATIVE AMERICAN METHAMPHETAMINE ENFORCEMENT AND TREATMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 545 because it corrects an inadvertent oversight in the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 and strengthens the arsenal available to Native American tribes as they combat the scourge of methamphetamine. I thank the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee for his work in expediting this legislation, the "Native American Methamphetamine Enforcement Act of 2007."

Mr. Speaker, last year Congress enacted the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 as Title VII of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005. Included in the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act were provisions that authorized funding for three important grant programs within the Department of Justice: (1) The COPS Hot Spots Program; (2) the Drug-Endangered Children program; and (3) the Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders program. Although Indian tribes and territories were included as eligible grant recipients under the Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders program, they were unintentionally left

out as possible grant recipients under the COPS Hot Spots Program and the Drug-Endangered Children Program. H.R. 545 allows Indian tribes and territories to combat the methamphetamine epidemic by applying for and receiving funding under all three of these grant programs.

Mr. Speaker, as great a threat as it is to the Nation at large, the methamphetamine threat is even greater in Native American communities. Studies of past year methamphetamine use have shown that Native American communities have more than double the methamphetamine use rate of other ethnicities. According to surveys performed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Office of Law Enforcement Services, over 70 percent of Indian tribes identified methamphetamine as the drug that posed the greatest threat to their reservation and also estimated that at least 40 percent of violent crime cases investigated in Indian Country involve methamphetamine in some capacity. That is why we must act to ensure that Native American tribes are eligible to apply for and receive funding to protect their communities from methamphetamines.

The COPS Hot Spots Program authorized \$99 million in funding to the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in combating methamphetamine production, distribution, and use, and to reimburse the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for properly removing and disposing of hazardous materials from clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. This funding may also be used to clean up methamphetamine laboratories, support health and environmental agencies, and to purchase equipment and support systems.

The Drug-Endangered Children Program authorized \$20 million in funding to provide comprehensive services and training to law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, child protective services, and health care services to assist children who live in a home in which methamphetamine has been used, manufactured, or sold. The specific dangers faced by children who live at or visit drug-production sites or are present during drug production include:

Inhalation, absorption or ingestion of toxic chemicals, drugs or contaminated foods or drink that may result in respiratory difficulties, nausea, chest pain, eye and tissue irritation, chemical burns and death;

Fires and explosions resulting from dangerous methamphetamine production processes;

Abuse and neglect by parents who often binge on methamphetamine and traumatic consequences that result; and

Hazardous living conditions (firearms, code violations, poor ventilation and sanitation).

The Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders Program authorized as much funding as may be allocated to facilitate collaboration between the criminal justice, child welfare, and substance abuse systems in order to reduce the use of drugs by pregnant women and those with dependent children. While Indian tribes and territories were included as eligible applicants, clarifying language is needed to ensure that there is adequate coordination with Tribal service providers.

Mr. Speaker, surveys conducted by the BIA also revealed that too often Tribal police forces that are underfunded and understaffed. According to the same survey, 90 percent of

Tribal police forces indicated that they needed additional drug investigation training, while 69 percent of Tribal respondents indicated that they had no access to, or funding for, methamphetamine treatment resources or facilities.

The Native American Methamphetamine Enforcement and Treatment Act of 2007 seeks to ensure that, consistent with tribal sovereignty, Indian tribes and territories can apply for the COPS Hot Spots and Drug-Endangered Children grant programs, just as states can, and also ensures adequate coordination with tribal service providers for tribes receiving funds under the Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders Program.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 545 corrects an inadvertent oversight in the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 and strengthens the arsenal available to Native American tribes as they combat the scourge of methamphetamine. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MARK KEESECKER

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true friend of the First District of Tennessee, Mark Keesecker, who passed away Saturday, March 17.

Mark Keesecker lived a life that was filled with entrepreneurship, enthusiasm, and compassion.

Mark was a member of First Baptist Church in Erwin and attended Christ Fellowship in Kingsport.

After graduating from East Tennessee State University, Mark made remarkable achievements in real estate sales, and was an example of professionalism for all of his colleagues. Mark attained some of the highest awards in the Nation for his work in real estate, which included the Century 21 Corporate Centurion Award that is earned by only 5 percent of agents in the Century 21 system.

Throughout all of his success, he was a humble and gracious gentleman. Mark was known for giving supplies to local schools and giving money to various charities.

He left a positive impression on those that he encountered. Mark was a very close personal friend of mine and his unexpected passing is a great loss to the First District.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me this evening in offering our sympathies to the family and friends of Mark Keesecker. He was an illustration of determination, purpose, and kindness.

His friendship and dedication is greatly appreciated, and he will be deeply missed.

TRIBUTE TO DR. AND MRS. JAMES DOBSON

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. and Mrs. James

Dobson, the founders of Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs. For 30 years Dr. and Mrs. Dobson have nurtured and defended not only families in Colorado, but families worldwide.

Focus on the Family has been a tireless champion in the fight to protect and preserve the sanctity of human life in all stages. In addition, Focus on the Family strives to preserve the institution of marriage while simultaneously battling the rising scourge of judicial activism. This invaluable organization informs and inspires those who care deeply about the family, rallying them to become involved in the moral, cultural, and political issues that threaten the core principles of our great Nation. I applaud their work around the world.

It is selfless individuals like the Dobsons upon whom this great Nation has been built. It gives me great comfort to know that such people are still working to defend and expound American values.

FSA CLOSURE MORATORIUM LEGISLATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Ms. HERSETH. Madam Speaker, recently, in my home state of South Dakota, the state executive director of the USDA Farm Service Agency announced a plan to eliminate at least six county FSA offices that currently serve South Dakota farmers and ranchers. I think this plan is ill-timed and unnecessary. It will require many producers to travel greater distances to receive necessary services including critical price support, conservation, and disaster programs. If carried out, this consolidation would force considerable hardship and expense on all affected farm and ranch families, especially considering the fact that some of the counties targeted are among South Dakota's most rural. Even by USDA's own admission, the plan will result in almost no savings of taxpayer dollars, but it will certainly result in increased inconvenience, travel time and cost to producers. Local FSA offices are a lifeline to farmers and ranchers in South Dakota and some at USDA apparently do not fully recognize their value to our state.

Moreover, because we are just beginning debate on a new farm bill, it makes no sense to implement major changes to our FSA county office system at this time. We don't yet know what the next farm bill will look like and, therefore, we don't know what the demands on local FSA offices are going to be. As a member of the House Agriculture Committee and its subcommittees for Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research and General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, this legislation is necessary to protect family producers that rely on their local offices for timely and personal access to USDA's farm programs.

This bill will simply require that USDA postpone any FSA county office closures until well after Congress has finished its work of reauthorizing the Farm Bill and we know what the personnel demands on local offices will be. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE HEBREW IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY AND THE COUNCIL MIGRATION SERVICE OF PHILADELPHIA ON THEIR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the Council Migration Service of Philadelphia on their 125th anniversary.

Since 1882, HIAS and Council have resettled and aided over 125,000 immigrants and refugees in their quest for safety and opportunity in our great Nation. Originally formed to serve the Jewish community, this charitable organization provides vital social and legal services to individuals representing 100 nationalities.

The work of HIAS and Council to ensure that refugees and immigrants assimilate, and become permanent residents and citizens, is truly commendable. As the largest provider of citizenship application assistance in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, HIAS and Council uphold our tradition as a Nation of immigrants.

In honor of this special anniversary, HIAS and Council are posthumously paying tribute to Daniel Aaron. The Aaron family is among those who have been served by HIAS and Council. In 1937, as a child, Daniel came to the United States from Germany, overcoming many obstacles to become one of the founders of Comcast, a Fortune 100 company.

My mother, Renee Perl, was one of many who had to flee their homeland during the Holocaust. Those who survived and came to America could not hide their deep gratitude and love for this country. My own love and respect for our country and belief in responsibility to each other stems from my mother's strong sense of patriotism.

I am proud to represent such an exemplary organization as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the Council Migration Service of Philadelphia, as well as so many Americans assisted by this organization.

BENTON CARDINALS GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Benton Cardinals Girls High School Basketball team on defeating Farmington Knights, by a score of 52-37, to win the school's first ever state championship in girls' basketball.

The Cardinals finished their incredible season by posting an unblemished record of 30-0 this season in Class 4A girls' basketball and an overall amazing record of 77-6 over the past three seasons.

The Cardinals consist of 14 tremendous young women, including Chelsie Strong, Holly Switzer, Jenni Musser, Blair Brown, Alicia Bell, Nicole Wilkinson, Melissa McIntosh, Nicole

Wilkenson, Charnelle Starling, Delissa Hall, Hannah Moore, Karli Sample, Meghan Curtis, and Claire Bowman.

Also, I want to recognize the great leadership of the team including Head Coach Brett Goodwin, who was assisted by Adam Willard. I also want to acknowledge the work of school administrators, Superintendent Melody Smith, Principals Jeanette Westfall and Jeff Modis, and Athletic Director Mike Ziesel, as additional keys to success.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the achievement of the Benton Cardinals girls High School Basketball team on their perfect season and state championship. It is an honor to represent this team in the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING PAGE AND JONES INC. IN MOBILE, ALA- BAMA ON RECEIVING THE 2007 GOVERNOR'S TRADE EXCEL- LENCE AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Page and Jones, Inc., located in Mobile, Alabama, for winning the Governor's Trade Excellence Award, as presented each year by Governor Bob Riley.

Two years ago, Governor Riley established the Governor's Trade Excellence Award to honor businesses of all sizes—and from all regions of the state of Alabama—for their excellence in exports. The goals of the award are to identify Alabama businesses making significant contributions to the export business and to promote Alabama exporters as role models and supporters to the Alabama business community, while encouraging even more businesses to become involved in the global marketplace. The award also aims to increase awareness of the impact of exports on Alabama's economy.

The eight winners of the award are chosen by a panel from the Export Alabama Trade Alliance that judges the businesses on a wide range of criteria. Criteria include the level of export sales as a proportion of total sales and innovations in exporting. I am proud to recognize that two out of the eight winners of the Governor's Trade Excellence award are located in Alabama's First Congressional District.

One of the eight recipients of this year's award, Page and Jones, Inc., is a customs broker specializing in international trade logistics for both small and large companies. Page and Jones was recognized for being an excellent role model for the Alabama business community, for its continuous strong support of the broader export community, for its active involvement at the international level, and for its continued growth as a small business.

Starting in the 1970s with only 15 employees, Page and Jones, Inc. now has over 60 employees with 12 locations in six states. They handle approximately \$75 million in transactions a year, and they encourage Alabama businesses to get involved globally by offering free services and advice to their fellow businessmen and women as well as cosponsoring various global events.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Page and Jones, Inc., for receiving the Alabama Governor's Trade Excellence Award. I know the company president, Mike Lee, the company employees, their friends, families, and members of the community also join with me in praising Page and Jones, Inc., for their many accomplishments and for extending thanks for their continued service to the Alabama business community, the First Congressional District, and to the international business community.

IN RECOGNITION OF JULIAN H.
"PETE" BOOKER

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Julian H. "Pete" Booker for receiving the 2007 New Castle County Chamber of Commerce Wallace M. Johnson Community Service Award. This great honor has been bestowed upon Mr. Booker for his commendable efforts to reduce teen automobile crashes in my home state of Delaware as well as for his dedication to numerous other philanthropic causes.

Julian, better known as Pete, created Delaware's SMARTDRIVE program, which educates high school students about safe driving techniques. Through this program nearly a dozen local agencies are partnered with more than two dozen high schools in order to ensure young drivers are able to safely handle the challenges of being behind the wheel. The program has achieved great success and has largely impacted many people in Delaware. This success was recognized in 2006 when the program received a national safety award.

Pete is currently finishing his second three-year term on the United Way of Delaware's Board of Directors, where he has volunteered since 1994. His talents and tireless dedication to such a worthy cause have facilitated and enhanced much needed programs in Delaware communities.

Pete further demonstrates commitment to his community by volunteering a great deal of time and resources to numerous other charities. The American Red Cross of the Delmarva Peninsula, the Delaware Association of Non-Profit Agencies, and Catholic Charities are but a few causes he has volunteered to assist.

Pete has also utilized his professional success to further the many causes he champions. As the president and CEO of Delmarva Broadcasting Company, he is able to donate generous portions of air-time to campaign thank-you ads as well as underwrite a portion of United Way's public events. The state of Delaware is greatly indebted to Mr. Booker for his selfless efforts. He has created a charitable legacy that has, and will continue to, touch many. I would like to congratulate Pete for receiving the Wallace M. Johnson Community Service Award. I cannot think of a more deserving recipient.

TRIBUTE TO GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today and join the millions of my fellow Americans in commemorating Greek Independence Day which, on March 25th celebrates the 186th anniversary of the rebellion and the struggle of the Greek people against the Ottoman Empire.

Thomas Jefferson referred to ancient Greece as the "light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness." What makes Greek Independence Day so special here in America is that it reminds us of the strong principles and bonds that the U.S. and Greece share. In looking into the struggles of our two nations, we realize how much our struggles have in common, and how much each country has been influenced by the other.

Greece and the United States are bound by an absolute commitment to the democratic ideals of justice and freedom and continue to be strong allies. By commemorating Greek Independence Day, we also celebrate the strength and the resolve of the human spirit that has been the inspiration of us all.

On the occasion of the anniversary of Greek independence, I join all Americans in wishing the people of Greece congratulations and best wishes. We will remain eternally grateful to the Greek people and the legacy of ancient Greece for the shining example it set for democracies the world over.

CHRISTIAN ANDRICK II FOR THE
AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christian Andrick II, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 603, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Christian has been involved in scouting and has held numerous leadership positions. He has served as Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Troop Bugler. Christian is in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and in the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Christian completed a landscaping beautifications project in front of the First Christian Church in Blue Springs, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christian Andrick II for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO DELORES FREENY
MAYES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile, Alabama, and indeed the entire First Congressional District, recently lost a dear friend, a talented journalist and a lovely lady, and I rise today to pay tribute to her memory.

Delores Freeny Mayes—or "Lowey" as she was known to her many friends—was reared in Mobile and graduated from Bishop Toolen High School.

After working for many years at Mobile's Brookley Field, Delores went on to write for the Mobile Beacon, where she spent the past 25 years providing unique insights to her many faithful readers.

Dubbed the "Helen Thomas" of the south Alabama press corps by my predecessor, former Congressman Sonny Callahan, Delores was always fair to those she interviewed and covered. Although she was proud of her chosen profession, she was first—and foremost—always a lady.

Over the years, Delores had the opportunity to interview former President Ronald Reagan, former Alabama Governor George C. Wallace, Mississippi Senator TRENT LOTT, former Congressman Callahan, as well as his predecessor, former Congressman Jack Edwards, not to mention a host of other local, state and national political figures.

While she wrote about a wide-array of issues affecting Mobile and south Alabama, politics was never far from Delores' mind, and she was someone that public officials from all walks of life knew they could trust.

In recent years, Delores turned her love for writing into a celebration of her many other talents when she learned to draw and paint. I am the proud beneficiary of a number of her original etchings and paintings, and at this particular time when we are celebrating her life, each one carries a special meaning to me.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing this beloved member of the Mobile community.

Delores Mayes will be deeply missed by her sister, Jeanne Phillips; three brothers, Tommy Cain, Hubert Cain, and John Cain; many nieces and nephews; as well as countless friends she leaves behind.

Above all else, Delores was a devoted daughter, sibling, wife and mother. Moreover, she epitomized what a "true friend" really is.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family during this difficult time.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTINE
CARZO

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Christine Carzo for receiving the 2007 New Castle County Chamber of Commerce William V. Roth Citizenship Award. I can think of no one more deserving of this prestigious

award which was created in honor of the late Senator Roth.

During her academic career at St. Elizabeth's High School, Christine has continually distinguished herself as a stellar student. Hard work and dedication paid off during her freshman year when she received the second highest GPA in her class. Since then she has been inducted into the National Honor Society, which she was secretary of for the 2006–07 school year. Christine is also a National Merit Commended Scholar and ranks third in her class.

While remaining committed to her academics, Christine has also been able to pursue a rich variety of extracurricular activities. She has spent over 185 hours performing charitable services for her community, many of which were at the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware. Christine is copy editor of her high school year book in addition to participating in mock trials, playing volleyball, and, interestingly enough, playing bass guitar in a local band.

I commend this extraordinary young woman for her many great accomplishments. She serves as an example to others and an asset to our community. I would like to congratulate her for receiving the William V. Roth Citizenship Award and wish her the best of luck in the future.

CONGRESS MUST STOP ATTACK ON IRAN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I am placing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this op-ed by my constituent Leonard Weiss. Mr. Weiss is a senior science fellow at the Center for International and Security Cooperation (CISAC) at Stanford University and a consultant to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. His research at CISAC includes an assessment of the impact on the non-proliferation regime of nuclear trade with non-signers of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

This piece, written with his colleague Larry Diamond of Stanford's Hoover Institution, recommends that Congress hold hearings to examine U.S. policies regarding Iran and suggests a number of options available to Congress to address the troubling issue of Iran's nuclear activities. We must conduct a healthy debate of all the options at our disposal. This article contributes to that important discussion.

[From Los Angeles Times.Com, Feb. 5, 2007]

CONGRESS MUST STOP AN ATTACK ON IRAN

(By Leonard Weiss and Larry Diamond)

Despite anguish and anger over the Bush administration's decision to escalate its failing war in Iraq, Congress is unlikely to cut off funding. Even most opponents of the war fear that they could be blamed for not supporting the troops in the field and for a possible descent into even greater catastrophe in the face of a precipitous U.S. withdrawal from Iraq.

But nothing prevents Congress from using its power of the purse to prevent an American attack on Iran. President Bush's

neoconservative advisors and pundit supporters have been beating the drums of war with Iran since 2003, when the president declared Iran to be part of an "axis of evil." Recall that a senior administration official told *The Times* that Iran should "take a number" in the wake of the invasion of Iraq. In his recent address to the nation on the troop surge in Iraq, Bush issued more threats to Iran. Now the president has named a Navy admiral to head the U.S. Central Command and dispatched a second aircraft carrier and minesweepers to the Persian Gulf, presumably to prevent Iran from closing the Strait of Hormuz in the event of conflict.

These developments and other administration moves could presage an air attack on Iran's nuclear facilities.

Iran is not innocent of dangerous and provocative behavior. Tehran has supported insurgent groups in Iraq, including helping to provide sophisticated explosives that have killed U.S. soldiers. And Iran's continued development of a nuclear enrichment facility is in defiance of the international community's demand to halt those actions. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's repulsive statements about the Holocaust and Israel add to the nervousness about Iran's future actions.

But war is not yet justified, except in the minds of those who have been lobbying for it for years. Iran is still years away from being a nuclear threat, and our experience with "preventive war" in Iraq should teach us a thing or two. Launching another such war without international approval would leave us even more politically isolated and militarily overstretched. Attacking a Middle Eastern country—one much stronger than Iraq and with the ability to cut off oil supplies from the Strait of Hormuz—could inflame the region, intensify Shiite militia attacks on our soldiers in Iraq and stimulate terrorist attacks on Americans and U.S. interests worldwide.

But recklessness, not prudence, has been the hallmark of this administration's foreign policy. Beyond this, the president and vice president subscribe to what some call the "unitary executive," which is a fancy way of saying they believe that Congress cannot prevent the president from doing almost anything he wants. The 1973 War Powers Act, passed in the wake of our disastrous war in Vietnam, allows the president to put U.S. troops in a combat situation under certain conditions before obtaining any congressional authorization to do so. When Bush signed the Iraq war resolution, he issued a statement challenging the constitutionality of the War Powers Act, indicating that he could take the nation to war without obeying its restrictions. Unfortunately, even if the president were to agree to the act's restrictions, he could still attack Iran and have up to 90 days before being required to get congressional authorization for the attack.

What to do? Congress should not wait. It should hold hearings on Iran before the president orders a bombing attack on its nuclear facilities, or orders or supports a provocative act by the U.S. or an ally designed to get Iran to retaliate, and thus further raise war fever.

Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D-Del.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has warned the administration that it had better seek congressional authorization for any attack on Iran. But we need Senate and House hearings now to put the Bush administration on notice that, in the absence of an imminent military attack or a verified terrorist attack on the United

States by Iran, Congress will not support a U.S. military strike on that country. Those hearings should aim toward passage of a law preventing the expenditure of any funds for a military attack on Iran unless Congress has either declared war with that country or has otherwise authorized military action under the War Powers Act.

The law should be attached to an appropriations bill, making it difficult for the president to veto. If he simply claims that he is not bound by the restriction even if he signs it into law, and then orders an attack on Iran without congressional authorization for it, Congress should file a lawsuit and begin impeachment proceedings.

It is, of course, possible that the president's truculent language and actions toward Iran are a bluff, an attempt to rein in its irresponsible behavior.

But the administration's mendacious and incompetent course of action in taking the nation to war with Iraq gives us no reason to provide the president with the benefit of any doubt. And stiffening economic sanctions—at a time when Iran's economy is ailing and the regime is losing popular support—offers a better and safer prospect of exerting leverage.

Another war of choice would only pour fuel on the fires of the Middle East. And the history of this administration shows that if Congress does not constrain this president, he could well act recklessly again, in ways that would profoundly damage our national interest.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH DAVID LEHMAN FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kenneth Lehman, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kenneth has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Kenneth has been involved in scouting, he has earned 40 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, OATR, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and is currently the Senior Patrol Leader. In 2006, Kenneth carried on the family tribal name started by his Grandfather Russell Lehman by becoming Brave Young Sure Footed Running Elk in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Kenneth is also a Brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow. Kenneth has earned the God and Life Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Kenneth planted 15 Northern Red Oak trees in front of and around Westbrook Care Center.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kenneth Lehman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATIONS TO INDEPENDENCE RENEWABLE ENERGY CORPORATION FOR BEGINNING PRODUCTION IN ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Independence Renewable Energy Corporation on the occasion of the opening of its Alabama biodiesel plant. After breaking ground in October 2006, Independence Renewable Energy Corporation produced its first gallon of biodiesel earlier this month.

From this first trickle of biodiesel, the plant is in the process of increasing its capacities and will soon boost production to 40 million gallons a year by May 2007, making it not only the largest producer in the State, but the largest producer in the Southeast.

Located in the town of Claiborne, in Monroe County, this plant currently converts soybean oil into biodiesel fuel, although its design flexibility provides for the use of alternative feedstocks. Independence Renewable Energy Corporation will use more than 27 million bushels of soybeans a year, which is nearly 1 million acres worth of soybeans.

The plant currently employs seven and will employ ten when at full operation in May. These 10 jobs will support up to an additional 150 jobs in agriculture, as well as an estimated 100 jobs in transportation and petroleum blending industries. The biodiesel plant is expected to generate annual revenue of \$120 million by distributing fuel to markets in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Georgia, and Louisiana.

This new facility is not only important for the economic impact that it will have on the State and region, but also for leading the way in the development of alternative fuels that are less harmful to the environment, while reducing our dependence on foreign oils and gas. Biodiesel, when blended with conventional fuels, reduces greenhouse gas and toxic emissions associated with petroleum derived diesel. This facility will benefit not only the people of Alabama but the entire Nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Independence Renewable Energy Corporation. The people of Claiborne—and Monroe County—are extremely proud to be part of the solution to our Nation's energy crisis.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KUUMBA HOUSE DANCE THEATRE FOR ITS 25 YEARS OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a Houston cultural treasure, the Kuumba House Dance Theatre. For 25 years of artistic excellence, the Kuumba House has been dedicated to ensuring that African dance forms thrive and grow both artistically and professionally in the city of

Houston as well as throughout Texas and the United States.

It has been said that the mind may know the steps, but only the spirit can dance. Dance is a transcendent expression of mind, body, and soul intertwined that when executed, captivates its audience and pulls them into its resplendent world of free flowing and creative aesthetics. The Kuumba House Dance Theatre has been enthraling its audiences with its high-energy, high-octane performances for the past 25 years in Houston, Texas.

The Kuumba Dance Theatre reflects its name well, which means "creativity" in Swahili. Through the art form of African dance, the body is allowed to creatively express and reflect the mood of its dancer while bending, jumping, and undulating gracefully to the rhythm and beat of the African drum. African dance reflects the rich culture and joy of the African people, and I applaud Kuumba House for having achieved international recognition by bringing African dance to Houston and the world.

Madam Speaker, we need to encourage creativity in this day and age, especially in our youth. For over two decades, the Kuumba House Dance Theatre has worked diligently in Houston and all over the U.S. to facilitate quality dance education and performances as well as promoting understanding of African cultural art forms and creative expression. I commend Kuumba House for not only teaching this beautiful cultural art form to our youth, but for also hosting educational activities, concerts, and community outreach events to all audiences that support and appreciate the beautiful art form of dance.

On behalf of the constituents of the 18th Congressional district of Texas, I commend this group on their faithful service to the Houston community and join them in the celebration of their 25th Anniversary. I am honored and humbled to be Co-Chairing Kuumba House's March 23rd, 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner with Global Energy Limited CEO Mr. Kenneth Yellowe.

The gala will feature such dignitaries as featured speaker Dr. Barbara Masekela, who has been a devoted member of the African National Congress for over three decades and is currently the South African Ambassador to the United States. An African luminary and personal friend who will be presented with the "Legend of Africa" award is NBA superstar and humanitarian Dikembe Mutombo. I am proud to say that I was more than glad to assist Dikembe who through his foundation has donated \$15 million to construct and open the Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital and Research Center, a \$29 million, 300-bed hospital in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In conclusion, the Kuumba House Dance Theatre would not be where it is today without the steadfast dedication of its Founder and Artistic Director, Lindi Yeni. I thank Lindi for her vision, hard work, and wholehearted commitment to Kuumba House and in this evening's auspicious gala. Once again, I pay tribute to the Kuumba House Dance Theatre and look forward to many more decades of thrilling and creative dance performances, which contribute to the rich diversity of our community.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER WAYNE MULLER FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Muller, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Christopher has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 32 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Troop Librarian, Patrol Leader, and Troop Guide. Christopher has earned numerous awards such as the Top Gun Award for being the best shooter in the Explorer Post and the H. Roe Bartle Heritage Award. Christopher is currently a Brave in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. His tribal name is "He Who Walks Like Thunder."

For his Eagle Scout project, Christopher painted fire hydrants for the city of Kearney, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Muller for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING AIRINC/FOKKER SERVICE IN FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA, ON RECEIVING THE 2007 GOVERNOR'S TRADE EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor AIRINC/Fokker Services located in Fairhope, Alabama, for winning the State of Alabama's Governor's Trade Excellence Award.

Two years ago, Alabama Governor Bob Riley established the Governor's Trade Excellence Award to honor businesses of all sizes—from all regions of the State of Alabama—for their excellence in exports. The goals of the award are to identify Alabama businesses making significant contributions to the export business and to promote Alabama exporters as role models and supporters to the Alabama business community, while encouraging businesses to become involved in the global marketplace. The award also aims to increase awareness of the impact of exporting on Alabama's economy.

The eight winners of the award are chosen by a panel from the Export Alabama Trade Alliance who judge the businesses on a wide range of criteria. Criteria include the level of export sales as a proportion of total sales and innovations in exporting. I am proud to announce that two out of the eight winners of the Governor's Trade Excellence award are located in Alabama's First Congressional District.

One of the eight recipients of this year's award, AIRINC/Fokker Services, specializes in the maintenance, repair, and overhaul work for aircraft including Airbus and Boeing airplanes. AIRINC was recognized by the award for being an excellent role model to the Alabama business community, for its continuous strong support of the entire Alabama export community, for its involvement at the international level, and for its continued growth as a business themselves. With a 26,000 square foot facility and 65 employees, AIRINC brings in approximately \$13.5 million in revenue each year, and regularly sends employees on business to parts of Europe and Asia.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating both the employees and management team at AIRINC/Fokker Services for receiving the Alabama Governor's Trade Excellence Award. I know the employees, their friends, families, and members of the community join with me in praising AIRINC/Fokker Services for their many accomplishments, and I extend my thanks for their continued service to the Alabama business community, the First Congressional District, and to the international business community.

IN TRIBUTE TO GWEN JACKSON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a compassionate leader and volunteer from the Fourth Congressional District, Gwen T. Jackson. Her involvement in the voluntary and nonprofit arena has been a lifelong pursuit: she has served on the board of over 50 different organizations in the Milwaukee metro area. Mrs. Jackson is a recognized leader at the national, regional and local level for her work in the community.

Mrs. Jackson was a pioneer for women in management and executive business positions and was vice president of human resources when she elected for early retirement in 1981 from BRILLS, Inc. where she worked for over 30 years.

Mrs. Jackson is well known as the consummate volunteer and her commitment to civic involvement includes the following leadership roles: chairman, Women's Fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation; United Way of Greater Milwaukee; Volunteers of America of Wisconsin; Alliance for Children and Family; Milwaukee County Department on Aging; African American Women's Project and chapter chair and chairperson emeritus of the red cross of greater Milwaukee among others. Mrs. Jackson's over 40-year tenure of volunteering at the Red Cross is held as her signature volunteer service. Further, she served as the national chairman of volunteers and part of the senior management team for the American National Red Cross in Washington D.C.

Mrs. Jackson's advocacy and leadership on a myriad of issues including the fields of aging, health, women and youth has earned her the respect and heartfelt admiration of Milwaukeeans. She has not only been the recipient of countless awards including an Honorary Doctorate from Cardinal Stritch University and Outstanding Citizen Award from the

National Council of Christians and Jews, but she has also had awards and scholarships named in her honor including the Gwen T. Jackson Angel Fund to provide quality of life assistance to frail elderly and mentally challenged adults who live in Volunteers of America of Wisconsin group homes.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Mrs. Jackson's contributions to the Fourth Congressional District. She is a community treasure and the many honors and awards she has received are a testament to the positive impact she has had on Milwaukee.

TRIBUTE TO DMITRY A. BROWN FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dmitry Brown, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dmitry has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Dmitry has been involved in scouting, he has earned 41 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Scribe, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Dmitry is a brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow and a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Dmitry has earned numerous awards such as the Leave No Trace Award, World Conservation Award, God and Life Award, and the Bartle Heritage Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Dmitry constructed a sandbox and bench for the students of Dogwood Elementary School.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dmitry Brown for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING ABRAHAM MITCHELL FOR BEING NAMED MOBILIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor Mr. Abraham Mitchell on the occasion of being named Mobilian of the Year for 2006 by the Mobile Civitan Club.

The Mobilian of the Year is the city's most prestigious civic honor, and Abe is most deserving of his award. With his brother Mayer, Abe co-founded the Mitchell Company in the 1950's, which would go on to become one of the southeast's largest real-estate companies before being sold in 1985. After his retirement from real estate, Abe became co-owner of another endeavor, Mitchell Brothers, Inc., which

has focused on investments and philanthropic support.

Abe is not only a very successful businessman, but he and his family have set a new standard in the state of Alabama for their philanthropic endeavors. Abe has always believed that education is paramount to the improvement of the human condition and, to that end, he has been extremely supportive of Mobile's institutes of higher education.

According to the University of South Alabama, Abe has donated at least \$4 million personally, providing for three endowed chairs in the College of Medicine and the soon to be opened Resources Learning Center in the Mitchell College of Business.

Moreover, he has funded the largest private scholarship program at USA, which provides 20 full academic scholarships each year. Abe has also supported the University of Mobile, Springhill College, Bishop State Community College, among others. He has also been heavily involved in philanthropic support of numerous cultural endeavors and community health and human service programs.

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Mr. Abraham Mitchell for being named the Mobilian of the Year for 2006 and in so doing recognize him for his many outstanding professional and philanthropic accomplishments.

Abe's enormous generosity not only benefits the students of the University of South Alabama but our entire community, State and Nation. His extraordinary positive impact has set an exemplary example for young and old alike in Mobile. I know that my colleagues will join me in commending him for his commitment to improving the lives of so many others.

INTRODUCTION OF DIVIDENDS PROPOSAL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, since 2003, certain qualified dividends from corporations have been eligible for a lower rate of tax. This lower rate of tax is 15 percent for higher income taxpayers and 5 percent for lower income taxpayers, specifically those in the 10 and 15 percent brackets. The rate of tax for lower income taxpayers becomes zero in 2008 and beyond. At the end of 2010, these special rates expire and dividends will be once again taxed as ordinary income.

This special rate was first proposed by President Bush on January 7, 2003. The proposal was described in a document released later that month by Treasury entitled, "Eliminate the Double Taxation on Corporate Earnings." Treasury explained the reason for the change was the double burden of a corporate level tax on top of the individual tax on dividends. The proposal would apply only to income that had been subject to U.S. income tax at the corporate level. But the proposal was terribly complicated.

The House then proposed a simpler cut in the dividend rate to 15 percent for any dividends received from domestic corporations. However, the final conference report did allow some dividends from foreign corporations to

qualify as well. In a statement on the Senate floor, one of the Senate negotiators, Finance Chairman CHUCK GRASSLEY, expressed reservation that shareholders of foreign corporations that had completed inversions to tax havens would benefit from this new rate.

I share that reservation. That is why today I am filing legislation to close several loopholes in this provision.

My legislation would amend Section 1 of the Internal Revenue Code to provide that dividends from certain foreign corporations which are not subject to an entity-level tax would not be eligible for the special, lower rate of tax. Since 2003, some banks have promoted "hybrid" debt instruments from foreign corporations as they may qualify for the special rate. Now, these hybrid instruments appear to be debt in the host foreign country, so the entity actually takes a deduction as if it was an interest payment. But in the U.S., they are classified as equity so the "dividend" may be eligible for the special, lower rate of tax. Clearly, this was not intended by Congress and needs to be shut down.

My bill also disallows the preferential dividend rate if the payment is received from an entity not subject to or is exempt from corporate tax in the foreign country. And, if the entity is a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, this bill would not allow the special dividend rate even if the entity was also classified as a controlled foreign corporation, or CFC. Currently, another section of the Code treats a foreign corporation that is both a CFC and a PFIC as only a CFC, inadvertently undermining the current PFIC limitation in Section 1. My bill would ensure that this tighter works as intended.

Finally, the current law allows dividends from foreign corporations with stock registered on a U.S. exchange to be eligible for the enhanced dividend rate. Of course, if companies are headquartered in a tax haven, then there is little or no corporate level tax paid. So, my bill would provide that only dividends from foreign companies which are located in countries with a comprehensive income tax and which are traded on a U.S. exchange may qualify. This section is modeled after another section in current law providing the special rate for dividends from companies located in countries which the Secretary of Treasury determines has a comprehensive income tax treaty.

I believe these changes carry out the original intent of the President and Congress in attempting to limit double taxation. In each of these circumstances, double taxation does not exist. Whether one supported the 2003 rate cut on dividends or not, we should all support reasonable changes to current law to make sure tax benefits only accrue to those intended. I urge my fellow colleagues to support this bill.

ANIMAL FIGHTING PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT ACT—SUPPORT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for H.R. 137, the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act. I join my other colleagues from both sides of

the aisle, animal rights organizations, and local law enforcement agencies to address the inhumane treatment of animals.

This bill has received widespread support for several reasons. First, animal fighting is terribly wrong. It is simply inappropriate and unacceptable for animals to be trained to attack and kill each other for the sole purpose of entertainment and illegal gambling. Use of animals in this manner is not only inhumane, but downright primitive and ugly. People who participate in these unlawful activities should be caught and punished.

Second, this bill will help to deter animal fighting by strengthening the penalties for those who are involved in the various aspects of animal fights. For too long the punishment has been too lenient. It is important to send a message that these cruel acts against animals will not be tolerated.

Third, the State laws will be in alignment with Federal laws. Progress has been made since the enactment of federal animal fighting laws in 1976. Currently, dog fighting is a felony in 48 States and cockfighting a felony in 33 states. Laws are needed at both the State and local levels to ensure decreases in dog fighting and animal cruelty.

I urge other colleagues to support this bill. I applaud the work done by animal rights organizations and law enforcement agencies to assist with protecting animals from inhumane treatment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to sickness, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes, had I been present I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 179, On Ordering the Previous Question, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 1433 District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act; "aye" on rollcall No. 180, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 1433; District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act; "yea" on rollcall No. 181, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, Use of Rotunda for Holocaust Days of Remembrance Ceremony; "yea" on rollcall No. 183, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Native American Methamphetamine Enforcement and Treatment Act of 2007; and "aye," on rollcall No. 184, On Approving the Journal.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VOTE BY MAIL ACT OF 2007

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Vote by Mail Act of 2007—a bill to provide grants to states to help them offset the costs of adopting Vote by Mail election systems and to study the benefits of those Vote by Mail election systems.

While I love the ritual of going to the polls to vote, I know that getting to the polls on

Election Day is often difficult. For some, it's impossible. And for some elections, it simply does not make sense to open the polls.

That is why I have introduced a bill that builds upon the growing trend of states to bring the polls to the voters. I believe we should try to meet our constituents halfway by increasing access to the electoral process.

Oregon, the only State to adopt Vote by Mail, historically has one of the highest voter participation rates in the country. Oregon has also dramatically decreased its costs.

Under current law, certain States and jurisdictions may conduct certain elections by mail but only under limited circumstances and they are not given Federal funding to make that adjustment to vote by mail.

This bill would help States who want to conduct Vote by Mail elections by creating an \$18 million, 3-year grant program to provide a portion of the funds they need.

Under this bill, States would have the option of adopting Vote by Mail statewide, within a group of selected counties, or even in a single county.

Further, this bill instructs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a very important study.

With the popularity of Vote by Mail increasing dramatically, it is crucial that we invest in some valuable research to learn about its benefits, find remedies for any problems and share best practices.

This bill will instruct the GAO to compare traditional voting methods with Vote by Mail with respect to: the likelihood of fraud and misconduct; the accuracy of voter rolls and election results; voter participation in urban and rural communities and by minorities, language minorities, individuals with disabilities, individuals who are homeless, and individuals who move frequently; residual vote rates, broken out by voter age, education, income, race, or ethnicity or whether a voter lives in an urban or rural community, is disabled, or is a language minority; public confidence in the election system; and cost savings.

As the former president of the League of Women Voters of San Diego, I care deeply about the integrity of our electoral system and the rate of participation among our citizens.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this effort to strengthen the democratic process and give elections officials and voters the options and support they deserve.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF GARRETT W. WALTON

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the significant impact Garrett W. Walton has made on the communities of northwest Florida.

In 1977, Garrett Walton moved to Pensacola, Florida, where his law career commenced as an associate and then a principal with the law firm of Emmanuel, Sheppard, and Condon. After 17 years, Mr. Walton retired from law practice, but he has continued fulfilling his passion for serving the community through his widespread involvement.

Garrett Walton has participated in numerous charitable and civic organizations, which include: the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce, the Girl Scouts of Northwest Florida, the Sacred Heart Foundation, the United Way, and the Homebuilders Association of West Florida. He was a founding director/organizer of Northwest Florida Legal Services, Toy Soldiers, Sea Plane Foundation and the Armed Services Council for the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce.

To many Americans, September 16, 2004, is a date that has come and gone, but to those in northwest Florida and South Alabama, September 16, 2004, is a date that will never be forgotten. It was on that day that Hurricane Ivan washed up on the shores of Alabama and Florida and became the fourth-worst natural disaster in United States history. Not being one to sit on the sidelines and watch as others suffered, Mr. Walton founded Rebuild Northwest Florida in November 2004. Rebuild Northwest Florida, a not-for-profit disaster recovery organization that assists need-based hurricane victims, was founded on this man's vision and spirit during a time when it was needed most. Because of the optimism and efforts of Mr. Walton and the many volunteers of northwest Florida, coupled by the support of the entire community, including local homebuilders, contractors, and charitable organizations, Rebuild Northwest Florida has brought hope to many families whose lives were forever changed on that September morning.

Mr. Walton's local efforts now extend statewide. On February 6, 2007, Florida Governor Charlie Crist appointed Garrett Walton as chairman of the Windstorm Mitigation Study Committee, a statewide committee whose focus is to make recommendations on existing and proposed programs and initiatives for mitigating windstorm damage.

Garrett Walton has proudly served northwest Florida over the past 30 years through his leadership, optimism and dedication. But he is also a dedicated husband, a loving father, a mentor of young professionals, and a slightly above average goose hunter. Pensacola is truly honored to have him as one of her own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the achievements of Garrett W. Walton and his exemplary service to the communities of northwest Florida.

IN HONOR OF WEST BERGEN MENTAL HEALTHCARE'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDEES, THE HONORABLE MICHAEL A. CHAGARES AND MARGARET M. CHAGARES

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this weekend, West Bergen Mental Healthcare will honor the Honorable Michael A. Chagares and Mrs. Margaret M. Chagares for their distinguished service on behalf of the mental health community in Bergen County, New Jersey.

The Chagares' have a long and proud history of service to their community, both as at-

torneys and as citizens. Michael Chagares has served as a Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit for the past year. Prior to that, he had served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Civil Division, where he was the Director of the Affirmative Civil Enforcement Unit and later Chief of the whole division. Judge Chagares also served as a hearing officer for the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund.

Peggy Chagares is also an attorney and volunteers her considerable legal talents to representing the underserved. A mother of four young children, she also volunteers her time to educational activities. For instance, she chairs the Sicomac School's Fifth Grade Activities Board and the school's Art Docent program. She has also served as chairperson of the Parents' Board of Grace Church Nursery School. And, Peggy Chagares has been a coach, a Sunday School teacher, and a Brownie and Girl Scout Leader.

They've put tremendous energy and time into helping West Bergen Mental Healthcare fulfill its mission of serving the community with compassion and quality care. It began as a Child Guidance Clinic more than 40 years ago. Today it offers a full range of services to over 2,000 people a year. They are a model of volunteerism and professionalism, and I applaud their commitment to the community.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF JACK SEBOLKA

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. John "Jack" Andrew Sebolka, as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

Jack was born on March 21, 1907, in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and was one of four children born to John and Anne Sebolka. Inspired by his father, Jack went to work in the local coal mines upon his graduation from St. John's University. Realizing that mining was not his calling, he began helping his grandparents with their farm. Throughout the Roaring Twenties and Great Depression, he dove into a myriad of professions including construction, selling furniture, and the gold business. In 1939, Jack became a sales representative for the United Furniture Manufacturers, where he worked until his retirement in 1982.

Jack married Marie Bombick on November 21, 1936, in Lake Silkworth, PA. The couple had two children, Ronald and James. The family made their home on a 15-acre farm in Jackson Township, PA, where Jack spent his "leisure time" growing vegetables on the farm. Tragically, Marie passed away from cancer in 1967, but Jack never left her side.

In June 1972, Jack remarried to Mary Laux. After their wedding they took a honeymoon trip around the world. They stopped in Bangkok, Thailand, where they spent 5 weeks with his son, James, who was then an advisor to the Thai Government. Mary was struck by cancer in 1976. Once again, Jack helped nurse his wife through treatment, but she passed in 1977.

Jack pressed on with work at United until his diagnosis with Guillian-Barre Syndrome,

GBS, which is found in approximately 1 out of every 100,000 persons. Jack was faced with immediate paralysis from the neck down, and remained hospitalized for several months. Through sheer determination and the loving support of his family, Jack beat the odds and began taking small steps after just 7 months of rehabilitation. Doctors called him "Miracle Man."

Jack currently resides at the Goodwin House in Alexandria, VA. He enjoys weekly bingo and group crossword puzzle sessions with his friends. Jack has lived a life by the Golden Rule: Give unto others as you would have them give unto you. He demonstrates great faith, patriotism, a strong work ethic and a genuine love for other people.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to Mr. Sebolka on this special occasion. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating his 100th birthday and in wishing him the very best on this day and every day that follows.

CELEBRATING BISHOP SYLVESTER MORTON, SR., OF GREATER ST. STEPHEN FULL GOSPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker:

Whereas Bishop Paul Sylvester Morton, Sr., was born in Ontario, Canada, July 30, 1950, to Bishop Clarence L. Morton, Sr., and Mother Matilda E. Morton;

Whereas Bishop Paul Sylvester Morton, Sr., was called to enter the ministry on February 24, 1967;

Whereas Bishop Paul Sylvester Morton, Sr., in 1975 was installed as Senior Pastor of Greater St. Stephens Missionary Baptist Church to shepherd the flock;

Whereas Bishop Paul Sylvester Morton, Sr., with his wife Debra at his side, grew that ministry of 647 believers into a 20,000 member congregation with five places of worship now called St. Stephens Full Gospel Baptist Church;

Whereas Bishop Paul Sylvester Morton, Sr., is dedicated to winning souls to the Lord, whether from the pulpit or as a world renowned author and singer of the gospel;

Whereas Bishop Morton's sole purpose has always been to help people to reach their ultimate potential spiritually by teaching them how to develop a personal relationship with God and showing them how to operate in "spirit over mind". Bishop Paul Sylvester Morton, Sr.'s commitment to God is evident;

Now, therefore I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., United States Representative of the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, do hereby recognize the celebration of service to God on this 25th day of March year 2007 with Bishop Paul Sylvester Morton, Sr., and the membership of St. Stephens Full Gospel Baptist Church.

CONGRATULATING THE ROCKWALL
HIGH SCHOOL LADY JACKETS**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the players and coaches of the 2007 Rockwall High School Lady Jackets. On March 3, the Lady Jackets became the third girls team in State history to complete a 40–0 season when they won the Texas 5A championship. Joining this exclusive club with the 1980 South Oak Cliff team and Duncanville's 1997 squad was even more exciting since it marked the first-ever State basketball title for Rockwall's girls. By defeating Houston Cypress Fairbanks 59–54 in the State championship and thereby finishing a 40 and 0 season, the Lady Jackets made an unprecedented achievement that certainly merits recognition.

With both Houston Cypress Fairbanks and Rockwall holding pristine 39–0 records prior to the championship game, the State championship promised to be an exciting match. However, by games end the Lady Jackets scored their 40th victory in overtime. Having won the silver medal last year against Plano West, the team was well motivated to come back this year and win gold, and with their championship victory they did just that.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the Rockwall Lady Jackets for their tremendous success, not only in tournament play but also throughout the entire season. Through their hard work and dedication they have made Rockwall very proud. I ask each of my colleagues to join me in honoring Rockwall High School. Finally, I want to commend Superintendent Dr. Gene Burton, Principal Dr. Mark LeMaster, Athletic Director Mark Elam, Athletic Coordinator Scott Smith, Head Coach Jill McDill, Varsity Assistant Casey Reeves, JV Coach Brad Blalock, and Freshman Coach Cody Christenberry for helping to lead the Lady Jackets on to victory. I'd like to congratulate each of the talented players on the 2007 Championship Lady jacket team: Shelby Adamson, Emily McCallum, Arielle Andres, Haley Day, Peyton Adamson, Samantha Shaw, Meredith Gordon, Sunny Satery, Brittany Coleman, Kayla Kimmons, Ariel Coleman, Genevieve Campbell, Lindsay Wack, and Kiara Slayton. I'd also like to honor Ashlie Strange, Rebekah Jones, Lauren Hurt, Nichole Schueneman, and Taylor Whitehead who all served as managers for the team.

I especially salute head coach Jill McDill on her devotion to duty, her super guidance of our girls, never looking ahead but taking the games one at a time. Coach McDill is a thorough coach where every detail is practiced over and over by her girls. Just as this stellar group of players took its schedule one game at a time, so too have they been taught to live life. Coach McDill has instilled in them the desire to live every day doing their best, to be unafraid of the future, and be loyal to your goals, your school, your family, and your God.

The combination of a talented group of girls, a head coach who has previously won State titles at other schools, a Superintendent and faculty who fully supports, and parents and loyal Yellow Jacket supporters yielded a Rockwall girls Basketball State 5A Championship and a number 3 national ranking.

Girls, coaches, parents, faculty, and student body—you made Rockwall, Texas, smallest county of 254 counties, very proud.

God bless all of you and thank you again! As we close and leave this floor of Congress on this 23rd day of March, let us do so in respect and recognition that the Rockwall Girls Basketball team is the champion of the largest State in the union—the State of Texas.

INTRODUCING THE MEDICARE
MENTAL HEALTH MODERNIZA-
TION ACT**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues JIM RAMSTAD of Minnesota and PATRICK KENNEDY from Rhode Island to introduce the Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act, a bill to provide mental health parity in Medicare. I have introduced a version of this bill in every Congress since 1994. Perhaps this time we can actually enact it.

Medicare's mental health benefit is fashioned on treatments provided in 1965, but mental health care has changed dramatically over the last 42 years. Medicare limits inpatient coverage at psychiatric hospitals to 190 days over an individual's lifetime. In addition, beneficiaries are charged a discriminatory 50 percent coinsurance for outpatient psychotherapy services, compared to 20 percent for physical health services.

The Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act eliminates this blatant mental health discrimination under Medicare and modernizes the Medicare mental health benefit to meet today's standards of care.

This bill is long overdue. One in five members of our senior population displays mental difficulties that are not part of the normal aging process. In primary care settings, more than a third of senior citizens demonstrate symptoms of depression and impaired social functioning. Yet only one out of every three mentally ill seniors receives the mental health services he/she needs. Older adults also have one of the highest rates of suicide of any segment of our population. In addition, mental illness is the single largest diagnostic category for Medicare beneficiaries who qualify as disabled.

There is a critical need for effective and accessible mental health care for our Medicare population. Recent research has found a direct relationship between treating depression in older adults and improved physical functioning associated with independent living. Unfortunately, the current structure of Medicare mental health benefits is inadequate and presents multiple barriers to access of essential treatment. This bill addresses these problems.

The Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act is a straightforward bill that improves Medicare's mental health benefits as follows:

It reduces the discriminatory co-payment for outpatient mental health services from 50 percent to the 20 percent level charged for most other Part B medical services.

It eliminates the arbitrary 190-day lifetime cap on inpatient services in psychiatric hospitals.

It improves beneficiary access to mental health services by including within Medicare a

number of community-based residential and intensive outpatient mental health services that characterize today's state-of-the-art clinical practices.

It further improves access to needed mental health services by addressing the shortage of qualified mental health professionals serving older and disabled Americans in rural and other medically underserved areas by allowing state licensed marriage and family therapists and mental health counselors to provide Medicare-covered services.

Similarly, it corrects a legislative oversight that will facilitate the provision of mental health services by clinical social workers within skilled nursing facilities.

It requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study to examine whether the Medicare criteria to cover therapeutic services to beneficiaries with Alzheimer's and related cognitive disorders discriminates by being too restrictive.

In April 2002, President Bush identified unfair treatment limitations placed on mental health benefits as a major barrier to mental health care and urged Congress to enact legislation that would provide full parity in the health insurance coverage of mental and physical illnesses. We've made important strides forward for the under-65 population. Twenty-six states have enacted full mental health parity. The Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP) was improved in 2001 to assure that all federal employees and members of Congress are provided parity for mental health and substance abuse treatment. This month, Representatives KENNEDY and RAMSTAD introduced H.R. 1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act, to provide full parity for mental health and substance abuse in the private insurance market nationwide. I'm proud to join them in support of this legislation, which was introduced with 256 cosponsors—well more than the 218 majority needed to pass the House of Representatives.

While some in the business community are concerned about increased costs associated with providing these benefits, a recent study of the FEHBP mental health coverage concluded that implementation of parity benefits led to negligible cost increases. In fact, some businesses are now embracing parity because they recognize the increased productivity from workers over the long run and how improving access to mental health services has the potential to avoid other additional costly care.

I am similarly sure that modernizing the Medicare mental health benefit will reduce unnecessary spending. Medicare mental health expenses have historically been heavily skewed toward more expensive inpatient services, with 56 percent of the total going to inpatient care and only 30 percent toward outpatient services in 2001. This relationship is in contrast to national trends showing a reversal in inpatient and outpatient spending over the past decade. In the last 10 years, inpatient spending declined from 40 percent to 24 percent, while outpatient spending increased from 36 percent to 50 percent of all mental health spending. In addition, improving beneficiary access to timely mental health care could well yield savings by minimizing the need for other services.

Science has demonstrated that mental illness and substance abuse are manifestations of biological diseases. It is long past time for

us to take action with regard to Medicare's inadequate mental health benefits and structure. Over the years, Congress has updated Medicare's benefits for treatment of physical illnesses as the practice of medicine has changed. The mental health field has undergone many advances over the past several decades. Effective research-validated interventions have been developed for many mental conditions that affect stricken beneficiaries. Most mental conditions no longer require long-term hospitalizations, and can be effectively treated in less restrictive community settings. This bill recognizes these advances in clinical treatment practices and adjusts Medicare's mental health coverage to account for them.

The Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act removes discriminatory features from the Medicare mental health benefits while facilitating access to up-to-date and affordable mental health services for our senior citizens and people with disabilities. I urge my colleagues to join Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. KENNEDY, and myself in support of this important legislation and to work with us to improve mental health coverage for everyone.

TRIBUTE TO PHYLLIS MAKI

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary woman who has made tremendous contributions to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, to the County and City of Marquette and to Northern Michigan University.

A Marquette native, Phyllis Maki is a graduate of Bishop Baraga High School. She has spent nearly her entire life in Marquette and, over the years, Ms. Maki has involved herself in countless local community organizations, winning the admiration of her friends and neighbors as someone upon whom her community could always depend.

Phyllis Maki is active on the Board of the Lake Superior Community Partnership, which fosters economic growth throughout Marquette and surrounding, smaller communities. She was Treasurer of the Lake Superior Community Partnership and Lake Superior Jobs Coalition. She represented the interests of Marquette City by serving as a "Marquette County Ambassador," traveling to Lansing to advocate for the community before the state House and Senate and to bring money back from the state capital to invest in important programs in the Marquette area. She further helped drive economic growth in the area by serving on the board of the Economic Club of Marquette County.

She has served on the boards of the Marquette County YMCA, the KI Sawyer Heritage Museum and the Northern Michigan University Centennial Committee. She has worked towards access to healthcare for my constituents by serving on the Marquette Community Access to Health Care Finance Committee. She has served as a member of the U.S. Olympic Education Committee and the Michigan Department of Transportation Focus Group. As one of her friends recently commented, "She is involved in everything!"

She has been recognized with multiple awards in the past, including the Athena

Award in 1998, which recognizes excellence of female leaders in their profession. She herself served for several years on the Athena Board Steering Committee. She also received the Paul Harris Fellow Award, an International Rotary Award for assisting others in the community to reach their goals.

An honorary alumna of Northern Michigan University (NMU), Ms. Maki's ties to Northern Michigan University run deep. She has served many years on the Northern Michigan University Foundation Board of Trustees and as past president of this Board of Trustees for 11 years. She was also a member of NMU's Golden Wildcat Club, Blue Line Club and a member of NMU's Forest Roberts Theater.

Ms. Maki can perhaps best be described as "tireless." In all areas of her life, Phyllis Maki exhibits a tenacious, irrepressible spirit. While her involvement in her community demanded much of her time, she also made time for family: a single parent, she raised two children largely on her own.

She is known for waking early in the morning to tackle the day. She would start almost every morning with a 4:30 a.m. run, finishing in time to be in her office or in meetings as early as 6 a.m. Her runs were so notoriously early that one morning, she is said to have encountered a moose. She was up so early that the only living creatures up with her at that hour were wildlife!

While she has given freely of her personal time and raised a family, Ms. Maki was also able to lead a rich and rewarding career in the private sector. In February of this year, she retired as the Chief Financial Officer of a local car dealership. During her 37 years of work there, she was the driving force in building the company's philanthropic activities, encouraging them to regularly donate vehicles to various charities and non-profits. Coincidentally, the name of her long time employer reflects Ms. Maki's altruistic spirit: the car dealership is called Public Service Garage.

An active member of St. Peter's Catholic Church, Ms. Maki's faith has always been a strong foundation in her life, providing her the spiritual endurance to give so much to so many.

Tomorrow, Phyllis Maki will receive the Northern Michigan University President's Lifetime Achievement Award. This prestigious honor is bestowed upon men and women whose lives are truly outstanding. As the citation for this award reads, "A beautiful person inside and out, she leads with strength and vision and lives with a kind heart and generous soul. She is the best kind of friend—the forever kind."

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting my friend, Ms. Phyllis Maki, for her lifetime of contributions and in wishing her, Carlo, Deborah, David and Michael all the best on this momentous occasion.

PUT ASIDE PARTISANSHIP TO PASS COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased that we in the House of Representa-

tives finally have a comprehensive immigration reform bill that we can debate, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bipartisan legislation authored by Congressman GUTIERREZ and Congressman FLAKE.

Members in this chamber now have the opportunity to pass a bill that will secure the border and end our nation's illegal immigration crisis.

Given that the challenge of illegal immigration is complex, the solution must address all aspects of this problem—border security, the hiring of illegal immigrants, labor shortages in certain sectors of our economy, and the millions of illegal immigrants currently living in the United States.

A piecemeal approach will simply not work. If we truly want to end illegal immigration, the only option is to pass a comprehensive bill that is tough, practical, and effective.

I stand here today ready to work with members of both parties, ready to listen to everyone's concerns, and steadfast in my conviction that, if we can put aside partisanship and compromise with each other, we can reach an agreement.

In my district in southern Arizona, the need for reform is critical. In 2006, 4,000 illegal immigrants a day crossed the border into Arizona. Our schools, hospitals, and law enforcement agencies are overwhelmed. Our environment and homeland security are threatened.

In the weeks ahead, I will be holding several forums on this legislation in my district, so I can receive feedback from the folks on the front lines of the immigration crisis. After listening to a range of experts and local residents, I will recommend possible improvements before we vote on this bill.

WOODROW WILSON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will establish the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library in Staunton, Virginia. In studying the life and times of the 28th President, we see how Woodrow Wilson affected and continues to influence how the United States responds to national and international crises. This bill is identical to legislation that passed on the House floor by Voice Vote in the 109th Congress September 28, 2006.

As a statesman, scholar, and President, Woodrow Wilson faced economic crisis, democratic decay, and a world war. Presidential historians agree that World War I, and President Wilson's leadership, radically altered the role of diplomacy as a tool of foreign policy—a policy that established a new path for America's role in promoting democracies throughout the world. So too did Wilson's high-minded ideals craft a legacy that shaped the powers and responsibilities of the executive branch in times of war.

As a professor and president of Princeton University, Wilson created a more selective and accountable system for higher education. By instituting curriculum reform, Wilson revolutionized the roles of teachers and students and quickly made Princeton one of the most

renowned universities in the world. Due to Wilson's legacy at Princeton, I am pleased to have the support of the current president, Shirley Tilghman, as we seek to establish a Presidential library and museum at Wilson's birthplace in Virginia.

On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson went before a joint session of Congress to seek a declaration of war against Germany, for "The world must be safe for democracy." Ninety years later, we continue to champion that right of mankind.

Specifically, this legislation will make grants from the National Archives and Records Administration for the establishment of a Presidential library to provide educational and interpretive services to honor the life of Woodrow Wilson. To ensure that a public-private partnership exists, my legislation also mandates that no grant shall be available for the establishment of this library until a private entity has raised at least twice the amount to be allocated by the Congress. Finally, once the library is complete, this legislation states that the Federal Government shall have no role or responsibility for the operation of the library.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT STEPHEN JOEL
TRACHTENBERG

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, today I want to pay tribute to an exceptional man who is retiring in July after 19 years of impeccable service to The George Washington University (GW).

Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, 68, became the 15th president of GW on August 1, 1988. A native of Brooklyn, NY, Trachtenberg earned a bachelor of arts degree from Columbia University in 1959, the Juris Doctor from Yale University in 1962, and the master of public administration degree from Harvard University in 1966. In 1968, he was selected as a Winston Churchill Traveling Fellow for study in Oxford, England.

He came to GW from the University of Hartford (CT), where he had been president for 11 years. Before assuming the presidency of Hartford, Trachtenberg served for 8 years at Boston University as vice president for academic services and academic dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Earlier, in Washington, DC, he was a special assistant for 2 years to the U.S. Education Commissioner, Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He has been an attorney with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and a legislative aide to former Indiana Congressman John Brademas.

Just a few of the highlights in his career include the following: Trachtenberg was named one of the Top 100 Leaders in the American Academy in a 1978 *Change* magazine poll. He received a 1987 Human Relations Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. In 1988 the Connecticut Bar Association honored him with its Distinguished Public Service Award, and he was recognized by the Hartford NAACP for his contributions to the education of minority students. In 1992 he received The Hannah G. Solomon Award from

the National Council of Jewish Women. In 1993 the Washington, DC Urban League named him "Father of the Year." And in 1992 and 2007 he received the Martin Luther King, Jr. awards.

President Trachtenberg has served the GW community as a drum major for change and has lead by example a commitment to public, civic and personal service. Throughout the years, he has worked tirelessly in honoring and enhancing the symbiotic relationship between the University and the District of Columbia, supporting and mentoring students, and leading and advocating for re-invention, change and civic engagement. He has worked successfully for almost two decades to propel GW further into the first ranks of world-class institutions of higher learning. I would like to boast some of the national rankings that GW has earned in recent years:

Foreign Affairs magazine ranked GW's Master's in International Affairs program number 7 in the top 20, and the undergraduate program number 10 out of the top 20.

For 2007, U.S. News and World Report ranks GW's Law School #19.

In 2006, GW is ranked #3 in intellectual property law.

Princeton Review ranks GW's Law School #10 for Best Career Prospects.

U.S. News & World Report, in August 2006, ranked 42nd Undergraduate Business Program which was GW's Seventh consecutive year in the top 50.

GW ranked 70th in Full-Time MBA Programs by U.S. News & World Report, in April 2006.

Also U.S. News & World Report, in April 2006, ranked GW one of the Top 25 Graduate Business Specialties in International Business, and in August of that year ranked GW's undergraduate specialty program in International Business.

As a result of President Trachtenberg's efforts the number of applications for undergraduate admission more than tripled (from 6,000 in 1988 to almost 20,000 in 2006) while the University's acceptance rate of these applicants was reduced by two-thirds. President Trachtenberg made financial aid for students a priority so that today the University offers nearly nine times (\$113 million) as much financial aid to incoming students as was offered in 1988.

It can confidently be said that the University's faculty now comprises experts on topics ranging from administrative law to zoology and contribute to scholarly journals, law reviews, and media outlets on a regular basis. The University's sponsored research enterprise has quadrupled from \$33 million in expenditures in 1988 to \$132 million in expenditures in 2006. Through President Trachtenberg's efforts, GW has significantly upgraded its information technology and library system which now contains more than 2,000,000 volumes and is a member of the prestigious Association of Research Libraries.

Under President Trachtenberg's unprecedented leadership, the University robustly developed academic, residential, and recreational facilities on campus—including the opening of the Media and Public Affairs Building and the establishment within of the Luther W. Brady Art Gallery (2001), the Annette and Theodore Lerner Health and Wellness Center (2001), GW Hospital (2002), 1957 E Street, the new home of GW's Elliott School of Inter-

national Affairs and Geography Department (2002), and Ric and Dawn Duques Hall, the new home of GW's Business School (2006)—in a way that served the institution's scholarly and other programmatic needs while respecting the interests of its Foggy Bottom neighbors. A few years ago, the Washington Post Magazine featured a cover story on President Trachtenberg, focusing on his expansionist visions, and skillful negotiations with the local residents. While every university President at one time or another finds him or herself embroiled in "town versus gown" dealings, President Trachtenberg has such a presence that he has earned himself the nickname "Hurricane Steve". I think that he appreciates the appellation, because it signifies that in a town with many egos and agendas, and a lot of talk not always accompanied by action, he is able to get things done.

President Trachtenberg's commitment to the enhancement of academic and other space on campus supported the renovation and expansion of the Law School complex (begun in 2000 and completed in 2006), the renovation of Morton and Norma Lee Fungler Hall (dedicated in February 2006), and improvements of the Cloyd Heck Marvin Center including the addition of the Marc C. Abrahms Great Hall (dedicated in December 2002) and the renovation of J Street dining facilities (opened August 2004).

President Trachtenberg also spearheaded a campus beautification effort that transformed a series of city streets into a cohesive and vibrant urban campus with the addition of the Mid-Campus Quad, Kogan Plaza, pocket parks, and outdoor sculptures.

President Trachtenberg presides over the District of Columbia's largest private employer. And to support all the foregoing, President Trachtenberg oversaw two decades of balanced budgets, and the increase in the University endowment from \$200 million in 1988 to more than \$1 billion in 2007.

In 1989, President Trachtenberg created the 21st Century DC Scholars Program (now the Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Scholars), which has granted almost 100 full scholarships, representing over \$13 million, to students from the DC Public Schools to attend GW. Under Trachtenberg's leadership, GW's Multicultural Student Services Center was named, and has become a strong center for cultural awareness and celebrations, student development, and diversity training. Additionally, the Office of Community Service was created in 1992 and has become a focal point for civic engagement for the Washington, DC community. His dedication to civic service is reflected throughout the University, which was named a "college with a conscience" in 2005 by Princeton Review, and most recently in the top 10 schools sending students to the Peace Corps.

His passion and demonstrated commitment to DC—the city, the schools, the business community and its residents—are unparalleled and have been recognized on several occasions by the District of Columbia Mayor, City Council and Chamber of Commerce. President Trachtenberg has received numerous accolades from across the nation and abroad for his service, vision, intellect, wit and compassion. Thanks to President Trachtenberg, GW went from being one of the best-kept secrets in town to being one of the best-known and most admired global universities.

FREEDOM FOR FRANCISCO
HERODES DÍAZ ECHEMENDÍA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Francisco Herodes Díaz Echemendía, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Díaz Echemendía is a member of the respected Pedro Luis Boitel organization named for Pedro Luis Boitel, a heroic, legendary Cuban political prisoner who died in a hunger strike in 1972. This organization, based in Placetas, Villa Clara, with provincial delegations throughout Cuba, has the primary objective of urging the Cuban tyranny to grant amnesty to all political prisoners and to abolish the indefensible "political" crimes in totalitarian Cuba. Well aware of the consequences associated with his involvement in Cuba's pro-democracy movement, Mr. Díaz Echemendía has never relinquished his dream that the men and women of Cuba deserve freedom, democracy, and fundamental human rights.

Because of his belief in these inalienable rights, Mr. Díaz Echemendía was arrested by the dictatorship on August 9, 1990 on absurd charges of "enemy propaganda, sabotage, and disrespect" which amounted to nothing more than his decision to voice the truth about totalitarian Cuba. For his supposed "crime" Mr. Díaz Echemendía was wrongfully and cruelly "sentenced" to twenty years and ten months in the totalitarian gulag.

On September 10, 1997, after being held in a subhuman dungeon for seven years, over thirty of the tyrant's security thugs savagely attacked Mr. Díaz Echemendía and other incarcerated human rights activists. Mr. Díaz Echemendía was mercilessly punched and kicked on the neck, ribs, back and face. By the time the thugs ceased committing their crimes against him he had suffered severe injuries to his left arm and his nose and lips had been split wide open. To add insult to injury he and his fellow political prisoners were handcuffed and unable to defend themselves against their attackers throughout the entire brutal assault.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Díaz Echemendía languishes in conditions that according to Amnesty International are rat infested and crawling with mice and cockroaches, with nothing but a small hole in the ground as a "bathroom". In prison Mr. Díaz Echemendía has been beaten and tortured at the orders of a racist, brutal, maniacal tyrant, simply for dreaming that the Cuban people must have basic and fundamental universal human rights.

Madam Speaker, this is only one of the abhorrent episodes of violence that are continually carried out on countless innocent Cuban men and women languishing in the darkness and infernal hell that is Castro's gulag. Let me be clear, Mr. Díaz Echemendía suffers cruel and malignant acts of hatred and horror, which have often left him, like many others on that oppressed island, in critical condition without any access to medical care. And yet, though the tyranny has attempted to destroy Mr. Díaz Echemendía, he will never cease in his commitment to freedom for Cuba.

My colleagues, it is unconscionable that just 90 miles from our shores Mr. Díaz

Echemendía is languishing in a totalitarian gulag for his belief in freedom. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Francisco Herodes Díaz Echemendía and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO ED BRADLEY

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem for the RECORD, written by Albert Carey Caswell:

AT A WAY ED

At A Way Ed,
To our world you so gave, all in what you said!

In how you so searched for the truth, for in your heart we so found the proof . . . as you read!

A—pioneer
Who to all hearts so endeared, a man who knew no fear!

For your mission was so clear, with your words of wisdom here . . . to enlighten all, so very clear!

A man of color, of Great Hue!
Who lived & fought for what is right & what is true! An inspiration, a hero for our children to view!

Another great American, in this our great land . . . of That Old Red, White, and Blue!

A tall man,
Of kind voice, of quiet warm grace the people's choice . . . who above all others would so stand!

With his beard and ear ring, to the cause of truth himself he would bring . . . this man!

Ed, you had such charm . . . in your own soft grace!

The coolest of cool, that's what we'll remember whenever we hear your voice and see your face!

For in the world of journalism, you shall always hold such this your fine high place!

From the jungles of Nam,
With Bob Dylan your lyrics were on, With The King Ali . . . all hearts were so touched so warm!

As forever in our hearts, you shall now live on!

For Life is so short,
But, in your Sixty Minutes . . . In your time, here on earth are so many magic moments to report!

You were Champion, A Fine Man . . . a great work of art, who now so stands . . . you were that sort!

At A Boy Ed,
You made it look so easy, a bright ray in the light of truth . . . in all you did and what you said . . .

How you taught so many, all in this . . . the fine life you led!

Ed . . . You've got one more exclusive,
You've got one last bag to pack, One last plane to catch . . . as an Angel who'll now so etch!

God's waiting in Heaven for you, for that greatest of all interviews . . . we'll miss you, God Bless!

At A Way Ed

TRIBUTE TO DIXIE LOUCKS

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dixie Loucks of Fort Collins, CO. She has led a life of service to her family, community and country.

Dixie was the third of nine children born to Charles and Netha McFarlane. She was raised on the family farm in Chugwater, WY, where she learned the value of family and hard work.

Dixie's family moved to Cedaredge, CO, when she was sixteen. It was there Dixie met the love of her life, her husband Jack Loucks. He was the boy next door and they married on February 22, 1948.

Jack joined the Air Force in 1949 and left for Korea in 1951 as an F-80 fighter/bomber pilot. He flew 101 missions. During this time Mrs. Loucks continued to live on the family farm and raised their daughter, Cristine. She provided support to her husband by sending him letters and pictures of their new daughter. These letters were a constant inspiration for Jack.

Throughout Jack's military career, Mrs. Loucks served her family and community. She began her community service at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey at the local hospital, coordinating Red Cross blood drives. As their daughters Cristine and Erylene began school, Mrs. Loucks was a tireless volunteer at their school and with Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls. When the family was stationed in Tripoli, Mrs. Loucks made dresses for the local girls from flour sacks provided through the U.S. Agency for International Development.

After Jack's retirement the family moved to Fort Collins. Mrs. Loucks worked in the Public Trustee's office and served on the U.S. military academy selection committees. Additionally, she served as a volunteer at the family's church, Harbor Hope First Free Methodist Church. She has served as a Sunday School teacher, a nursery leader and as a member of the leadership council.

For the last 2 years Mrs. Loucks has been a member of the 'Knit and Knot' group who make fleece blankets, hats and layettes for babies of mothers in the Alpha Center for Women.

Madam Speaker, our country is certainly better because of Mrs. Loucks' commitment to her family and the years of volunteer service within the military, her community and her church. Hers is a life well lived and a pattern for others to follow. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dixie Loucks.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
DR. EMMA MORAN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida as I pay tribute to the life of Dr. Emma Moran.

There are those who pass this way and touch lives, and there are those who make lives better for having been in our midst. The depth and breath of the life of Dr. Emma Moran can be summed in one phrase—she loved, she cared and she taught us how to live through the giving of our talents.

Dr. Moran was an educator, activist, advocate, and a believer in the sanctity and importance of education. She had this embracing personality that while in her presence she made you feel that your words and thoughts were important to her, and that she listened and cared. This great woman of faith, tenacity and boundless energy embodied the better qualities of human existence, and she demanded no less from each of us. Dr.

Moran was and is a true inspiration.

Rest now, my friend, for your work here is done and your life shall live on forever in each of us.

IN RECOGNITION OF 40 YEARS OF
SERVICE BY REV. ALVIN R. KOLB

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great honor that I rise today to extend my congratulations to Rev. Alvin R. Kolb for having served as the minister to the Assemblies of God for 40 years.

Since 1967, Reverend Kolb has led the spiritual growth of so many people looking to him for guidance in their faith. At the age of 15, he held his first cottage prayer meeting, and soon after, he began organizing church revivals. It was at one of his revivals that he met his wife, Maralyn Enfinger Kolb. They married in 1971, raised 5 children, and are the proud grandparents of 11 grandchildren.

Reverend Kolb pastored his first church in 1973; the Harold Assembly of God began with a congregation of just five widowed women. From there his ministry grew and he went on to pastor the Assemblies of God at Cedar Springs, Calvary Full Gospel, Bay Springs, Whitfield, Bradley, and East Milton. So many have come to know and love the Lord through Reverend Kolb, and his ministry has prompted others to become pastors and ministers themselves, such as his youngest son, Robert.

For the past 10 years, Reverend Kolb has served as the pastor of the East Milton Assembly of God. Both his family and the members of his congregation value his commitment to the church and are grateful that he will continue to serve as the leader in their thriving place of worship for years to come.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to a man who has served as a role model to us all. A deep sense of personal service to congregations for 40 years is something to truly be admired and I am thankful for his dedication to the East Milton Assembly of God.

COMMEMORATION OF THE MORN-
ING STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church has been a historic and cultural landmark of Portland ever since May 17, 1959, when the congregation marched from their temporary home on North Fargo Street to their new home at 106 Northeast Ivy Street. It was there that Reverend O.B. Williams of Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church preached the first sermon as Morning Star's guest for the afternoon service.

The Church building, constructed in 1919, and inhabited by Morning Star for the past 48 years, has come to represent not only a historic landmark, but a lively center of worship. The church also embodies an important part of the modern-day tradition, culture, and fabric of the community. Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church has helped to meet the needs of the community by providing important assistance to those around them who are in need. In addition, the church offers a venue for a vital spiritual and social community network.

The Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church has endured much restoration and growth in the past, but no one in the community was prepared for the tragic burning to the ground of this historic building on February 6, 2007. In a show of support, many individuals, churches, community organizations and local businesses have offered thousands of dollars in donations in support of the eventual reconstruction of the church. We thank them for their generosity.

It is with admiration and respect that the long history of the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church be honored. By commemorating this historic fire and the eventual reconstruction, Portland can help to keep the memory and present duty of this church alive.

We stand with Pastor A. Wayne Johnson, the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church congregation and their respective communities in solidarity during this trying time. We recognize the sense of loss that all associated must feel surrounding this unexpected fire, and we extend our best wishes to the congregation for the church's recovery and restoration. We only hope that the church's capacity to help the community it has reached out to over its many esteemed years of service will soon be restored to its fullest.

TRIBUTE TO THE POTH HIGH
SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the women of the Poth High School Girls Basketball Team in their stunning 72–70 double-overtime victory against the top-ranked Winnsboro in the Class 2A championship game.

The story of the Poth High School Girls Basketball team is of a team that fought against the odds to achieve one of the best high school sports victories in Texas history. The team had lost in the semifinals each of the previous three years, and their game against Winnsboro was not one in which they were expected to win. The excitement of the crowd exploded when Whitney Wehymeyer scored thirty points and Lauren Wacławczyk added sixteen points in the second overtime's final seconds to send Poth to the Class 2A state championship with their 72–70 win.

Theirs was a story that echoed the classic underdog against the presumptive winner, but due to their remarkable team spirit and strong determination to win, they came out on top. I am very proud that these remarkable women have won the state championship, and that they are from Poth, a city in my congressional district. The city has shown strong support of women's sports teams in their community.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the women of the Poth High School Girls Basketball team, and I thank you for this time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I will like to submit this statement for the RECORD and regret that I was unavoidably detained with legislative business on March 20, 2007 on the vote for rollcall vote No. 164 and on March 22, 2007 on the vote for rollcall No. 181.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "No" on rollcall No. 164 on the amendment to H.R. 1227 that would require recipients of rental assistance under the bill—those displaced from their homes, many of whom lost their jobs as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita—to perform 20 hours per week of approved work activities.

"Yea" on rollcall No. 181 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 66, permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

CONGRATULATING THE 2007 WE
THE PEOPLE NATIONAL FINALS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, from April 28–30, 2007, more than 1200 students from across the country will visit Washington, DC, to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that the State of Georgia will be represented by a class from

Chamblee Charter High School from Atlanta at this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our Nation's Capital and compete at the national level.

While in Washington, the students will participate in a 3-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which they "testify" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. It is important to note that results of independent studies of this nationally acclaimed program reveal that We the People . . . students have knowledge gains that are superior to comparison students. Students also display a greater political tolerance and commitment to the principles and values of the Constitution and Bill of Rights than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches. With many reports and surveys indicating the lack of civic knowledge and civic participation, I am pleased to support such a superb program that is producing an enlightened and engaged citizenry.

Mr. President, the names of these outstanding students from Chamblee Charter High School are: Sara Arment, Teresa Bardagiy, Ameer Chowdhury, Carol Coleman, Carson Dance, Petra Ehlert, Savannah Fox, Samuel Franklin, Elizabeth Hogan, Joseph Hutton, Martin Hwang, Jasmine Johnson, Jason King, Duncan Lien, Sang Oh, Laura Ownbey, Sally Phipps, Daniel Sok, Alexander Vidor, Kayla Vinson, and Xi Wang.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Stephen J. Rubino, who is responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the national finals. Also worthy of special recognition is John D. Hoge, the State coordinator, and John Carr, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing the We the People program in my State.

I wish these students much success as they prepare to compete at the We the People national finals and applaud their exceptional achievement.

A TRIBUTE TO THE USS "JOHN F. KENNEDY"

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the outstanding leadership Captain Zecchin and the past commanding officers of the USS *Kennedy*, including Captain Dennis Fitzpatrick and Captain Harv Henderson, have provided to the sailors and this great Nation.

Naval leadership depends on two core military values—cohesiveness and mission. Or-

chestrating 3,500 sailors to pull together to accomplish a mission, whether that mission is war, training, repair or preparing to decommissioning, is a monumental task. The *Kennedy's* 39 years of outstanding service is due to the series of leaders who stood at her helm and kept her ready at a moment's notice. I wish Captain Zecchin well on his next tour as the Commanding Officer of the USS *Kitty Hawk*; we will miss him here in Mayport.

The *Kennedy* has seen many farewells—from the spouses and family of its crew and from Navy servicemen seeing her off on various deployments. Just think, how many loved ones have proudly watched their son or daughter sail off to gloriously defend our freedom and preserve our way of life. But at the end of each deployment there has always been a welcome home. Today, we say goodbye for the last time.

We are here today to say farewell to a ship that has symbolized so much to so many.

To the sailor, the *Kennedy* has been a home away from home on many deployments. She represents small town America, where many of her sailors are from. Her population is a little over 5,000 and she boasts a post office, doctors' offices, a place of worship, restaurants that serve over 15,000 meals a day and employment opportunities for all. She has elevators, runways, and a busy airport.

This "carrier" town represents the best of America. All the sailors work together toward a common goal, never separated by race or class or gender. Ships are steel, they are not alive. It is the crew who bring a ship to life. The stories that emerge from her sailors will keep her spirit alive. The *Kennedy* will continue to live in the lives of the thousands of sailors who manned her rail, flight crews who donned a rainbow of colored shirts and made her flight deck roar to life, and aviators who were catapulted into the sky and prayed to catch her hook on their return.

To the Jacksonville community, the *Kennedy* will always be a symbol of our great city. She has meant so much to this community and this community has meant so much to her. Here on this pier where you sit today, the sailors of the *Kennedy* and the men and women of our local ship-repair companies worked long hours on grueling jobs to complete the largest pier-side availability ever accomplished in the Navy. The skills of the artisans from these Jacksonville companies have kept the boilers and propulsion plant working during the *Kennedy's* time in Mayport.

Big John's connection to our community is more than just the economic base she provides. We will miss her sailors and their wives and husbands. We will miss the children in our local schools and athletic clubs. We will miss their involvement in the Mayport community.

To our country, the *Kennedy* has been part of our history for 39 years. She is one of the finest ships in the world's finest Navy. As our country continues to fight the war on terror, we must remember the role the *Kennedy* played in the earliest counter-terrorist actions.

Even though she entered active duty during the height of the Vietnam War, she soon

found herself in a role more familiar to today—spending the first of several deployments in the Mediterranean to help deal with a deteriorating situation in the Middle East. In the 1980's, she responded to the growing crisis in Lebanon, and in 1988 F-14 Tomcats launched from the *Kennedy* intercepted and downed two hostile Libyan MiGs in response to Libya's terrorist activities. On the *Kennedy's* most recent deployment, the air wing dropped more than 64,000 pounds of ordnance on Taliban and al Qaeda targets.

To me personally, I share many of the same memories as the Jacksonville community, but the *Kennedy* also provided me with the great honor of joining the national debate on how the Navy is going to meet the threats of tomorrow while fighting the budget pressures of today. The discussion that followed the announcement that the *Kennedy* would be decommissioned was good for our Navy, good for our Congress and good for our Nation.

We must be keenly aware of how important our aircraft carrier fleet is to this Nation's ability to counter current threats and deter future aggression. Carriers are mammoth cities, and are not constructed in a single day. We cannot take lightly the decision to take an aircraft carrier out of service; that decision cannot be reversed. The discussion will continue well past the final days of the *John F. Kennedy*, and I will remain an active member of any debate on the size and shape of our Navy fleet, and for this I thank the *John F. Kennedy*.

To Mayport, the *Kennedy* has been the symbol of this national treasure. This Naval Station is defined not only by the ships that are home ported here, but also by its strategic location to counter the ever growing threats in South America and the Caribbean. If we do not deter the aggression and narco-terrorist threats today, South America could very well become the next Afghanistan. Terrorist training camps would be dangerously close to our own shores.

I will continue to work with our Navy leadership to make sure that we have the right ships in the right places for the right missions. The Navy needs Mayport even more now than it did when the *Kennedy* battle group called her home.

The *Kennedy* is a great and noble ship and when this day is done, she will cease to be four and a half acres of sovereign U.S. territory that can launch an array of fighter aircraft and precision weapons which strike terror in the hearts of America's enemies. She will be stripped, docked and viewed by most as just a great mass of steel. Her dedicated crew will be dispersed to other carriers and they will continue to perform their duties. And as those who served aboard her and as those in our community who loved her, remember the glory of the USS *John F. Kennedy*—then our ship, the sacrifices of her crew and the freedom she fought to defend will continue to live on and on.